



Public Safety Commission Meeting

February 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

5805 North Lamar Blvd, Building A

Austin, TX 78752

Summary

(This report represents a summary of events of the meeting, and is not necessarily complete nor an exact transcript of testimony.)

The Public Safety Commission convened as posted to consider and take formal action, if necessary, on the following agenda items:



I. CALL TO ORDER

10:00 am – Chairman Steven Mach called the meeting to order. In attendance: Chairman Steven Mach, Commissioner Nelda Blair, Commissioner Larry Long, Commissioner Dan Hord III, and Commissioner Steve Stodghill. A quorum from the Public Safety Commission was present. Also present were Director Freeman Martin, Lt. Colonel Jason Taylor and General Counsel Phil Adkins.

II. INVOCATION

Chief Jason Hester delivered the invocation.

III. PLEDGES

Corporal Luis Hernandez led the meeting in the Pledge of Alliance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Hord to approve the minutes for the December 11, 2025, Public Safety Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blair. The motion passed.

V. PRESENTATIONS

(The DPS Public Information Office provided the following information from today's meeting.)

February 2026 Public Safety Commission Awards Presentations

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE AWARDS:

The following employee will be presented with a certificate in recognition of her **30 years** of service and accomplishment with the Texas Department of Public Safety:



Danna Rhodes (Driver License Division)

The following employee will be presented with a certificate in recognition of her **35 years** of service and accomplishment with the Texas Department of Public Safety:



Charlotte Niemtschk (Finance Division)

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Governor William P. Clements was known for commitment to excellence in government. The William P. Clements Excellence award was created to honor employees who display exceptional performance of duties throughout the course of his or her career at DPS. The following are the 2025 recipients of the award:

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Non-Commissioned Recipient – Kristy Link, Crime Lab Division

Beginning her career with the DPS Garland Regional Crime Laboratory in May 2002, this employee has served numerous roles and made an extraordinary impact on forensic science in Texas over the last two (2) decades.

Starting as a Forensic Scientist, she screened evidence and performed DNA analysis to develop profiles critical to investigations. In August 2009, she was promoted to **DNA Technical Leader**, a position she held for seven years. In this role, she oversaw all technical aspects of DNA operations, including training, quality assurance, proficiency testing, and troubleshooting.

In September 2019, she transitioned to **Local CODIS Administrator**, where she manages the operations and compliance of the CODIS database for the Garland lab. She has implemented innovative processes to improve efficiency and accountability, developed workflows to meet legislative requirements, and refined database samples to maximize potential. This employee has coordinated numerous familial searches, reviewed hundreds of DNA profiles for CODIS entries, and trained analysts across multiple laboratories. In addition, she provides education to law enforcement partners and continues to mentor Garland DNA analysts. Her work as liaison between the lab and law enforcement has been pivotal in solving cold cases through the Texas Rangers' SAKI program. Her ability to identify linked cases and facilitate investigations has led to arrests in multiple cases, with many more ongoing.

Beyond her operational excellence, this employee has been an active member of the **Association of Forensic DNA Analysts and Administrators** since 2003.

In recognition of her exceptional performance of duties throughout the course of her career, **Kristy Link** is hereby awarded the 2025 William P. Clements Award.



Commissioned Recipient – Laura Simmons, Texas Ranger Division

With an exceptional 27-year career with the Texas Department of Public Safety, including 18 years as a Texas Ranger and a recent promotion to Lieutenant, this employee began her service as a Highway Patrol Trooper in 1998, excelling in crash investigation, criminal interdiction, and DWI enforcement before advancing into leadership roles and criminal intelligence investigations. In 2008, she joined the Texas Ranger Division, where she quickly distinguished herself through her expertise in crime scene processing and forensic investigation, graduating from and later instructing at the National Forensic Academy.

Throughout her tenure, she has led numerous high-profile investigations, including capital murder cases, officer-involved shootings, and sensitive crimes against children, securing convictions and delivering expert testimony. She has deployed to nearly every major mass casualty event in Texas, including the Sutherland Springs, Midland/Odessa, and Uvalde tragedies, demonstrating professionalism, resilience, and compassion. Beyond her investigative achievements, she is a respected mentor who has shaped the next generation of Texas Rangers through training and guidance and within her community has served as a teacher and coach.

In recognition of her exceptional performance of duties throughout the course of her career, **Lieutenant Laura Simmons** is hereby awarded the 2025 William P. Clements Award.

DIRECTOR'S CITATION & DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Micheal Mathes (CID)
Frank Newsom (USM)

On January 15, 2025, during a high-risk fugitive apprehension operation in Houston, Texas, Special Agent Michael Mathes displayed extraordinary courage and lifesaving skill under extreme and imminent danger. Following the neutralization of an armed suspect who had fatally wounded Brazoria County Sheriff's Deputy Jesse Vargas and critically injured "Rocky", an Operational K9, Agent Mathes and Deputy U.S. Marsha Frank Newsom advanced into the threat zone without hesitation.



As a certified DPS Medic, Agent Mathes rapidly assessed K9's severe gunshot wounds to the snout and thoracic region, which caused life-threatening hemorrhage. Demonstrating exceptional composure and expertise, he applied advanced trauma care techniques, including Quick Clot gauze and pressure dressings, alongside Deputy U.S. Marshal Frank Newsom, to stabilize the K9 for emergency transport. Their decisive actions were critical in preserving the life of a valued law enforcement partner.

In recognition of their significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a fellow officer, **Agent Michael Mathes** is hereby awarded the Director's Citation and **Marshal Frank Newsom** is hereby awarded the Director's Award.

DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Jeffrey Tyner

On July 10, 2025, Trooper Mario Chacon initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle later confirmed to be stolen. The driver refused to yield and led troopers on a dangerous pursuit, reaching speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. During the pursuit, the suspect caused multiple crashes before colliding with other vehicles in downtown Midland during rush hour. The driver then abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot.

At that moment, Mr. Jeffrey Tyner, who was walking nearby to a meeting, witnessed the suspect fleeing. Without hesitation, Mr. Tyner pursued the suspect on foot, tackled him, and restrained him until troopers arrived. His courageous actions directly contributed to the safe apprehension of a violent offender and prevented further harm to the public.

In recognition of his bravery and willingness to act in a dangerous and uncertain situation, **Mr. Jeffrey Tyner** is hereby awarded the Director's Award.



DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

David Acuña Jose Sanchez

On the morning of September 17, 2025, Mr. David Acuña and Mr. Jose Sanchez demonstrated extraordinary courage and selflessness during a catastrophic residential explosion and fire near US-277 south of Haskell, Texas. While traveling northbound, Acuña and Sanchez witnessed a home engulfed in flames following an explosion. Without hesitation and at great personal risk, both sprinted toward the inferno.

Upon reaching the residence, Acuña and Sanchez observed a section of the exterior wall blown away by the blast. Through thick smoke and intense heat, they saw a severely burned woman, later identified as Mrs. Patsy Blake, struggling to escape. Despite the imminent danger, both men entered the hazard zone, pulled Mrs. Blake through the opening, and extinguished flames on her body. When her injuries prevented safe handling, Acuña and Sanchez quickly improvised a makeshift stretcher from debris and dragged her to safety.

Mr. Acuña and Sanchez's decisive actions afforded Mrs. Blake a fighting chance at survival and gave her family precious time to grieve and say goodbye. Their valor and quick thinking exemplify the highest ideals of citizenship and public service.



In recognition of their heroic conduct, which greatly assisted first responders and saved a life from immediate death, **Mr. David Acuña** and **Mr. Jose Sanchez** are hereby awarded the Director's Award.

LIFESAVING & DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Mark Willey (CID)

Teresa Gee (Houston HIDTA)

On July 30, 2025, Special Agent (SA) Mark Willey and Houston HIDTA Analyst Teresa Gee were traveling through downtown Houston when they observed a female subject slumped over and unresponsive at the metro bus stop. Concerned for her welfare, Agent Willey stopped to investigate and contacted a male bystander who was attempting to rouse the woman. When the male suspect was questioned, he indicated that she had taken Xanax and was not waking up. Upon assessing her condition, Agent Willey determined that she was not breathing and had no pulse. Drawing upon his training and experience, Agent Willey recognized the signs of potential fentanyl overdose and immediately began lifesaving measures.



Agent Willey administered an initial 4mg dose of Narcan with no response, followed quickly by a second dose. When there was still no improvement, he performed a sternum rub, at which point she took a large gasp of air and began to breathe. Agent Willey monitored her closely, maintaining communication and ensuring she remained stable until the arrival of emergency medical personnel.

During this critical response, Analyst Teresa Gee promptly called 9-1-1 and relayed precise and detailed information to Houston emergency dispatchers, providing ongoing updates based on Agent Willey's observation. Her calm coordination ensured and allowed Agent Willey to continue uninterrupted medical intervention.

In recognition of their significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Agent Mark Willey** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award and **Analyst Teresa Gee** is hereby awarded Director's Award.

LIFESAVING & DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Jeremy Sherrod (LEO)

Timothy Simmons (THP)

Kevin Gray (Retired THP)

Carlos Gonzalez

Ken Gestring

On April 18, 2025, during the George W. Bush Team 43 Veterans and Law Enforcement event, a life-threatening medical emergency occurred when Team 43 Veteran Lee Sage began choking and was unable to breathe. Without hesitation, Mr. Kevin Gestring immediately intervened and began administering the Heimlich maneuver, providing critical assistance during the most urgent moments of the emergency. Retired HP Captain Kevin Gray quickly positioned himself on the victim's left side to help stabilize his body and maintain control of the environment. His actions ensured that lifesaving maneuvers could be performed effectively and safely, preventing further harm during a chaotic and high-pressure moment. As the Heimlich maneuver was being administered, Region Chief Jeremy Sherrod provided critical support, coordinated efforts, and directed additional assistance when fatigue set in among



responders. His leadership and quick thinking ensured that lifesaving actions continued without interruption.

When initial lifesaving efforts began to falter due to fatigue, Captain Timothy Simmons immediately stepped forward and assumed responsibility for administering the Heimlich maneuver. For several intense minutes, he delivered repeated abdominal thrusts with unwavering determination, despite the physical strain and the critical nature of the situation. His actions were pivotal in partially clearing the airway and sustaining the victim. As individuals began to show fatigue, Carlos Gonzalez—an employee of Texas de Brazil—stepped forward at a critical moment and the victim’s condition was dire. Demonstrating exceptional composure and strength, Mr. Gonzalez assumed responsibility for administering the Heimlich maneuver, delivering multiple forceful abdominal thrusts that ultimately cleared the obstruction and restored the victim’s ability to breathe.

The act of these individuals’ perseverance under pressure, combined with their ability to act decisively in a high-stakes environment, exemplifies the highest standards of service and commitment to the preservation of life. Their heroic intervention reflects great credit upon themselves and serves as an inspiring example of leadership and selflessness.

In recognition of their significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Region Chief Jeremy Sherrod and Captain Timothy Simmons** are hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award, and **Retired Captain Kevin Gray, Mr. Carlos Gonzalez and Mr. Ken Gestring (who could not be in attendance)** are hereby awarded the Director's Award.

LIFESAVING AWARD:

Jennifer Trevino-Hicks (THP)
John Jarrett (THP)

May 1, 2025, the North Texas Tollway Authority Safety Operations Center broadcasted a report of a suicidal subject standing on the bridge at Josey Lane, which crosses over the eastbound lanes of the President George Bush Turnpike. Corporal Jennifer Trevino-Hicks and Trooper John Jarrett arrived on scene within minutes and immediately assessed a highly dangerous situation: The suicidal subject was positioned on the opposite side of a chain-link fence, standing on a narrow concrete ledge with his feet halfway off and holding on to the fence by his fingertips.



Recognizing the imminent risk of a fatal fall, both officers approached cautiously to avoid alarming the subject. Trooper Jarrett initiated verbal contact and successfully built rapport, learning the subject was homeless, despondent, and had visited his son’s school that morning intending to see him one last time. Through calm, compassionate communication, Trooper Jarrett persuaded the subject to climb back over the fence, while Corporal Trevino-Hicks assisted in ensuring he crossed back over safely.

Their quick thinking and empathetic approach prevented a tragedy. They provided the subject with hope, emphasizing his recent positive choice and encouraging him to “start stacking wins.” Shortly after, Carrollton EMS and the Carrollton Police Department Crisis Negotiations Unit arrived, and the subject was transported for medical and psychological care.

Officer Hardin of Carrollton PD, and a founding member of their Crisis Negotiations Unit with 34 years of experience, commended both officers for their outstanding performance. Despite having no formal CNU training, Corporal Trevino-Hicks and Trooper Jarrett demonstrated that genuine care and professionalism are the foundation of lifesaving intervention.

In recognition of their significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Troopers Jennifer Trevino-Hicks and John Jarrett** are hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.

LIFESAVING AWARD:

Simon Mijares (THP)

On October 15, 2025, Trooper Simon Mijares demonstrated exceptional professionalism, composure, and life-saving skills during a critical incident in Polk County. Dispatched to a disturbance involving a gunshot victim, Trooper Mijares arrived on scene and immediately assessed a female victim suffering from severe bleeding and multiple gunshot wounds. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Trooper Mijares retrieved his DPS-issued first aid kit and applied a tourniquet to the victim's upper arm, effectively stopping massive hemorrhage.



His swift and decisive actions stabilized the victim until additional law enforcement and emergency medical personnel arrived. Medical staff later confirmed that the tourniquet applied by Trooper Mijares was effective and likely contributed to the victim's survival. The victim underwent emergency surgery and multiple blood transfusions and is expected to recover. Joint Medical Operations assessed that the combined efforts of Trooper Mijares and assisting officers were lifesaving, with Trooper Mijares's immediate response being critical to the outcome.

In recognition of his significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Trooper Simon Mijares** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.

LIFESAVING AWARD:

Thomas Goodson

On July 2, 2025, while conducting a routine patrol near Lady Bird Lake, Trooper Thomas Goodson encountered a female subject in violation of prohibited camping regulations. During the contact, the subject fled into the water and quickly became distressed, unable to swim or keep her head above water.

Recognizing the imminent danger to the individual's life, Trooper Goodson acted without hesitation. Fully aware of the risks, he entered the water in full uniform and successfully reached the subject. Demonstrating exceptional courage and selflessness, Trooper Goodson pulled her to safety, preventing a potential drowning. Emergency Medical Services and Fire personnel evaluated the subject on scene and determined no further medical attention was required.



Emergency Medical Services and Fire personnel evaluated the subject on scene and determined no further medical attention was required.

In recognition of his significant and decisive response to a life-threatening situation resulting in the saving of a life, **Trooper Thomas Goodson** is hereby awarded the Lifesaving Award.

[Director Freeman said that there are two new retirees that deserve special recognition.](#)



After 17 years of hard work and dedication to the Department, I can think of no one, with perhaps the exception of Steve McCraw, who has worked harder and longer hours to provide exceptional service for the Department as Chief of Finance Division, Megan Sanchez. Lieutenant Colonel Walt Goodson, Law Enforcement Services, attested to the fact that her car was always the last in the parking lot late at night and never, ever failed to get our paychecks out.



After 33 years of service, Assistant Chief James Lopez was recognized for his professionalism and contributions to internal investigations processes with the Office of Inspector General. His dedication and service has been greatly appreciated and he will be missed as both the hard worker that he was and as a friend.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Members of the public wishing to address the Commission are subject to a time limit of 5 minutes and must complete a Public Comment Registration Card located at the entry. Should a member of the public bring an item to the Commission for which the subject was not posted on the agenda of the meeting, state law provides that the Commission may receive the information but cannot act upon it at the meeting. The Commission may direct staff to contact the requestor or request that the issue be placed on a future agenda for discussion.)

Chairman Mach asked if anyone present wished to address the Public Safety Commission. Hearing none, Chairman Mach closed the Public Comment section.

VII. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. Slow Down, Move Over Update

Director Freeman Martin asked Captain Shely Lee, State Crash Reconstruction Team, to deliver the report on the Slow Down, Move Over campaign. The following slides provide the details of her report.

webex

Texas Highway Patrol

Slow Down/ Move Over Fleet Crash Update – A Decade of Lessons

Captain Shely Lee
State Crash Reconstruction Team

webex

A Problem We Couldn't Ignore

- Slow Down/Move Over crashes remain a significant threat to Trooper safety
- Events occur during routine enforcement, roadside assistance, and crash investigation
- Agency focus: reducing severity and improving survivability

webex

Slow Down Move Over

Many of the crashes described above involved a violation of the Slow Down/Move Over Law (TRC 545.157). The following statistics were derived from crashes where a motorist failed to vacate the nearest lane or reduce speed by 20 MPH.

Total Slow Down/Move Over Crashes: 85	
Patrol Vehicle Occupied:	39
Patrol Vehicle Not Occupied:	36
Trooper Injured as Pedestrian on Foot:	11

Officer Injury Details - SD/MO Crashes	
Killed:	2
Suspected Serious Injury:	7
Non-Incapacitating:	10
Possible Injury:	9
Not Injured:	26

Note: Crashes involving unoccupied patrol vehicles do not have an injury entry

Captain Lee department's fleet

- 2018: 25% of
- 2026: Fleet SUVs (Tahoe's, Light trucks to marked patrol
- Legislative for more over sedans
- Ballistic standard on all vehicles (funded
- Only law agency besides Secret Service with ballistic windshields
- Pit bumpers implemented
- New lighting controllers with synchronization capabilities and nighttime pulse mode to reduce confusion

addressed the transition: fleet was sedans almost entirely Explorers) being introduced units funding secured expensive SUVs

windshields now black and white by legislature) enforcement

Historical Overview - 2014

2014: State Crash Team conducted live crash testing targeting side-impact collisions

Side-impact collisions were the focus

Survivability concerns were identified



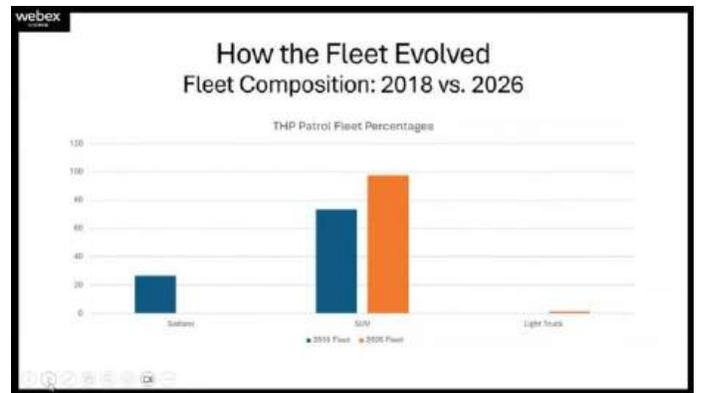
2017 – A Directive to Dig Deeper

- Department leadership asked for research and clarity
- Focus on sedans vs. SUVs
- Independent studies confirm higher fatality risk in sedans



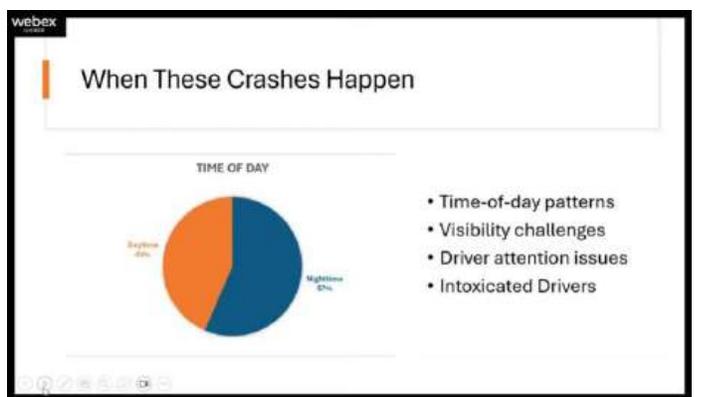
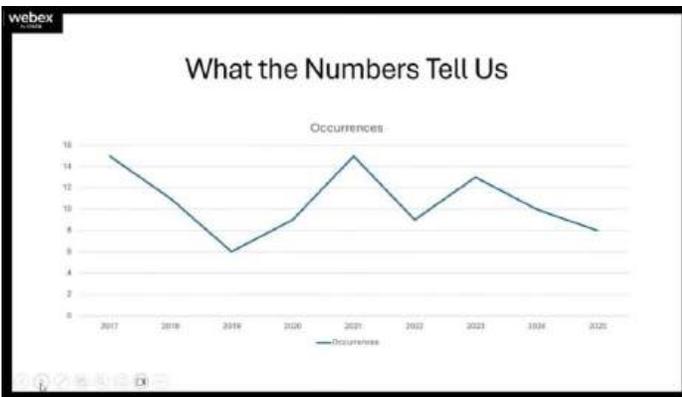
2018 - The Test That Changed the Fleet

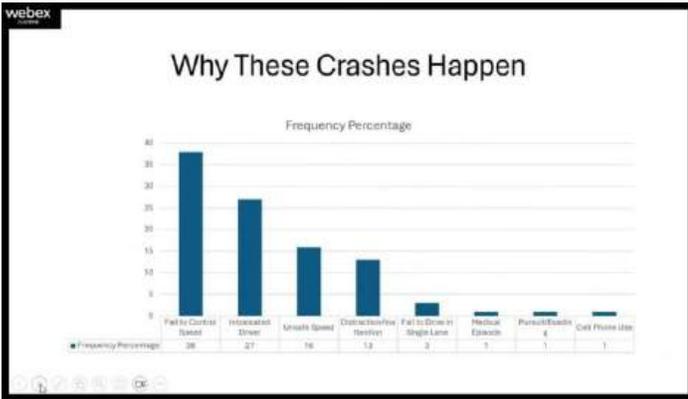
- Director McCraw requested additional testing conducted in 2018
- Focused on rear-end collisions
- Evaluated rear intrusion differences between sedans and SUVs
- Measured change-in-velocity impacts
- Reinforced survivability advantages of larger vehicles

Captain Lee discussed crash testing and data as well as operational changes:

- 2014: First live crash testing focused on side impact collisions
- 2017: Death of Trooper Tom Nipper led to decisive action
- 2018: Rear-end testing conducted in Florence
- SUVs show dramatically lower change in velocity impacts due to higher profile and box design
- No trooper deaths from rear-end crashes while in vehicle since 2017
- Training emphasizes passenger-side approach to reduce risk
- Task forces targeting driver behaviors
- Media and communications team maintains public awareness through PSAs and social media





When it Happens in Real Life

- Real DPS rear-end collision
- Slow Down/Move Over Violation
- Example of the danger Troopers face daily

The Faces Behind the Numbers

Six photos on the left show troopers who did not survive a crash. The five photos on the right show troopers who were severely injured in crashes and suffered through months of recovery.

What We've Done To Protect Troopers

- Transition to SUVs and light trucks with larger profiles
- Ongoing public messaging with Media & Communications
- Statewide SDMO task forces
- PIT bumpers added beginning in 2019
- 2022 adoption of Whelen CamCore lighting controller
 - Syncs flash patterns across units
 - Reduces distraction for passing motorists
 - Nighttime pulse mode with lower-intensity patterns

Where We Stand Today

- Significant progress in reducing injury risk
- Fleet modernization has improved survivability
- SDMO crashes remain a persistent behavioral challenge
- Continued enforcement, public education, and technology improvements remain essential

LATEST NEWS
DPS Leads Successful Multi-State Crackdown on Move Over, Slow Down Laws

Other points discussed:

Financial Impact:

- Millions of dollars in state property damage
- Immeasurable cost in families changed forever and careers cut short

Action Items/Follow-up:

- Continue monitoring emerging technology for additional safety improvements
- Maintain public awareness campaigns
- Continue legislative engagement for funding support

Commissioner Mach thanked Captain Lee for her presentation. He also emphasized need for the state to work harder on driver education and noted many drivers fail to slow down when passing stopped patrol cars.

Colonel Martin credited former Chief Ron Joy's instrumental work following Trooper Tom Nipper's death in 2017 and praised legislative leadership (Lieutenant Governor, legislature) for funding SUVs and ballistic windshields.

B. Colonel's Update

.Nothing more was presented.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DPS Training Academy Update

Chairman Mach began by thanking Commissioner Long for his liaison leadership on this huge infrastructure project in Florence.

Director Martin asked Chief Jason Hester, Infrastructure Operations Division, and Chief Derick Prestridge, Training Operations Division, to moderate the report on the Training Academy update. Neil Craig of Broadus and Associates made a Power Point presentation.





TOTAL PROJECT SCHEDULE

Master Schedule	2026				2027				2028			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Program Management Services												
Water Line Survey/Easement Acq.			◆ Easements complete									
Water Line Construction				◆ Water to Site								
Long Lead Equipment Procurement								◆ All LLE Delivered				
Campus Construction												◆ Substantial Completion Sep. 2027
- Sitework				◆ KO CUP Start Up	◆ Permanent Power		◆ WWTP Start Up					
- Tiltwall Buildings		◆ All Foundations Complete		◆ Top Out All Structures	◆ Dry-In							
- Admin building		◆ Foundation Complete		◆ Top Out	◆ Dry-In							
Furniture/ IT Install												
DPS Occupancy & Operation									◆ Occupancy Nov. 2027			
Warranty Phase												

Upcoming February Highlights:

- Piers & foundations
- Site work & underground piping
- Waterline construction start
- TCEQ wastewater permitting process
- Remaining waterline easement process



TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

Project Budget	Master Budget (Jan '26)	Cost to Date	Estimate At Completion	Variance At Completion
Program Management (B&A)	\$ 8,236,771	\$ 2,806,597	\$ 8,236,771	\$ -
TFC Fee	\$ 2,775,000	\$ 891,942	\$ 2,775,000	\$ -
Design	\$ 30,902,112	\$ 22,218,978	\$ 30,902,112	\$ -
CMAR Precon Fee	\$ 525,000	\$ 498,750	\$ 525,000	\$ -
Construction	\$ 309,475,000	\$ 7,223,015	\$ 328,485,416	\$ (19,010,415.50)
Owner Support Expenses (Land Acq, Consultants)	\$ 6,878,928	\$ 3,492,523	\$ 6,878,928	\$ -
Technology / IT	\$ 5,171,027	\$ -	\$ 5,171,027	\$ -
FFE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,289,222	\$ (5,289,222.00)
Miscellaneous Expenses (Easements, Utility Fees)	\$ 5,795,487	\$ 708,430	\$ 5,795,487	\$ -
Construction Contingency (5.6%)	\$ 18,299,638	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,299,637.50
Total	\$ 388,058,962	\$ 37,840,234	\$ 394,058,962	\$ (6,000,000.00)

Funding History

2024 Initial Program Funds	\$381,449,500
DPS Amendments	\$6,609,462
Total Program Budget	\$388,058,962

February 2026 Budget Highlights

- Paid to Date: \$37.8M (9.7%)
- Construction GMP approved in Nov. (\$309M)
- AE Fee Reconciliation approved Jan. (\$2.8M)
- Program Contingency \$18.3M



Some of the key points of the presentation included:

Stephen C. McCraw Law Enforcement Academy and Training Facility - Phase One

Project Overview:

- Largest construction project in DPS history
- Site: Florence campus with additional 136 acres acquired February 2024
- Total Project Budget: \$388 million
 - Legislative authorization: \$381.5 million
 - DPS contribution: \$6.6 million
- Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP): \$309 million (approved by Texas Facilities Commission, November 2024)
- Program Contingency: \$18 million currently held
- Substantial Completion: September 2027
- DPS Occupancy: November 2027

Project Team:

- Texas Facilities Commission
- Broadus and Associates (Design)
- Marmon Mock Architects
- Flintco (General Contractors)
- DPS Project Manager: Victoria Madero
- Key team members: Robin Taglienti (TFC Chief Architect), Edgar Ferraro (Marmon Mock Principal), Justin Garrett (Flintco)

Facility Components:

- Total interior conditioned space: 430,000+ square feet

Major Buildings:

1. Building 10: 123,000 sq ft classroom and administrative building
 - Three main classrooms with 200 seats each (capacity for 3 training classes simultaneously)
 - Office space
 - Heritage lobby with grand entrance
2. Endurance Center: 80,000 sq ft facility
 - Physical training and conditioning
 - Arrest and control tactics training
 - Endurance field for PT
3. Recruit Dormitories: Two buildings
 - 408 beds total
4. Dining Hall:
 - Seating for 500
 - Maximum capacity: 1,700 plates per meal
5. Support Facilities:
 - Warehousing (uniform storage and issue)
 - Central utility plant
 - Water storage with tanks
 - Backup power generation
 - Wastewater treatment plant
 - Parking for 600+ vehicles



Infrastructure:

- Water line: 6.2 miles connecting to City of Georgetown water system
- Construction begins next week along County Road 240
- Will deliver 400,000+ gallons of water per day
- Water system operational target: September 2026

Project Timeline/Milestones:

- February 2024: Property acquisition completed
- September 2024: Design process began
- October 2025: 100% construction documents design completed
- 2025: Two early construction packages executed (site clearance, preparation, long-lead equipment ordering)
- January 2026: Full construction began (three weeks prior to meeting)
- Next 30-60 days: Piers, grade beams, foundations, site work, underground utilities
- September 2026: Water system operational
- September 2027: Substantial completion
- November 2027: DPS occupancy

Construction Progress:

- Site cleared by October 2025
- Pads prepared

- As of January 2026: Pier drilling underway
- 100+ piers installed in two-week period
- Three drilling rigs operating simultaneously
- Underground vaults and utility piping installation in progress
- Grade beam preparations at Endurance Center

Budget Status:

- Total executed to date: \$37 million (approximately 10% of overall budget)
- Design and early construction work
- \$2.8 million fee adjustment to Marmon Mock approved by TFC in January 2026
- Weekly qualitative risk analysis process in place

B. Final Determination in Contested Cases – consideration and possible action on Proposal for Decision:

1. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-23087.MVI – Sun Dancer Express LLC AND Jacqueline Sewell – Suspension and Administrative Penalty

Fined \$500 and suspended license for 12 months.

2. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-23080.MVI – Hazem Seder – Suspension

Suspension of license for 12 months.

3. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-23078.MVI – Zakria Omer – Administrative Penalty

\$250 administrative penalties.

4. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-26585.MVI – Kamil Khan – Revocation

Revocation of certificate due to fraud.

5. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-23077.PSB – Shaquanda Robinson – Denial

Denial of security license application due to previous convictions and restrictions on carrying a firearm.

A motion was made by commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Hord to accept the recommended final determinations on items X. B. 1-5. The motion passed.

6. SOAH Docket No. 405-25-08216.PSB – Feggin Christopher Connors – Denial

Due to some felony convictions in California and legal rulings confusion, the recommendation is for denial of the license.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Hord.

When asked if there was any discussion or questions before the vote, Commissioner Long asked whether there were any means of recourse in this ruling. Counselor Adkins stated that because of the legal ruling confusion, Mr. Connors could appeal the case in District Court.

The motion passed.

C. Report, discussion, and possible action on the following rule proposals for publication to receive public comment:

1. Proposed amendments to 37 TAC Sections 15.82 – 15.85, concerning Driver Improvement

Chief Sheri Gibson said these 4 amendment recommendations were listed in her presentation

slides:

Proposed Rule

Requested Rule Change: Amend 15.82 regarding Notice or Order of Suspension Disqualifications or Revocation

Discussion: Amending 15.82 will: Modify the notice or order process to exclude certain disqualifications

Requested Action: Approval for posting in Texas Register

Proposed Rule

Requested Rule Change: Amend 15.83 regarding Hearing Request

Discussion: Amending 15.83 will: Modify the hearings request process to exclude certain disqualifications

Requested Action: Approval for posting in Texas Register

Proposed Rule

Requested Rule Change: Amend 15.84 regarding Hearing

Discussion: Amending 15.84 will: Modify the hearings process to exclude disqualifications

Requested Action: Approval for posting in Texas Register

Proposed Rule

Requested Rule Change: Amend 15.85 regarding Appeals

Discussion: Amending 15.85 will: Modify the appeals process to exclude disqualifications

Requested Action: Approval for posting in Texas Register

Chief Gibson asked for approval to post the amendments to 15.82, 15.83, 15.84 and 15.85 to the Texas Register for public review and comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Blair to post the amendments to the Texas Register as requested.

The motion passed.

D. Intelligence Threat Briefing (Clearance Required – Executive Session Expected)

This item was handled in Executive Session.

IX. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding the modification of the DPS organizational structure and the appointment, promotion, ratification, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a member of the Department or Commission management team

Colonel Freeman Martin stated that with the promotion of Venessa Moya to be Chief of Finance, it left an opening for Assistant Chief of Regulatory Services. The position was posted internally and externally. Our application review committee and interview board had many very qualified applicants and has chosen Roland (Rolando) Luna for the position.

Qualifications:

- Started DPS career 2002 as State Trooper
- Positions held at DPS:

- Sergeant
- Investigator
- Lieutenant in Internal Affairs
- Agent on protective detail under Governor Greg Abbott (when Attorney General)
- Experience outside DPS:
 - Division Director, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
 - Chief of Investigations, HHSC Office of Inspector General
 - Inspector General, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
 - Deputy Executive Director, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (most recent)
- Unique qualifications: Spearheaded statewide compliance, regulatory, and investigative initiatives

Chairman Mach said that he maintains good communication with DMV and noted a very good reputation from DMV Chairman who referred to Luna as "rock star" at DMV. He also suggested that we were "poaching" Luna from the DMV.

Colonel Martin also said that with the retirement of Deputy General (Assistant Chief) there is now an opening for the Assistant Chief in the Office of Inspector General.

Presenter: He asked Inspector General Philip Ayala to make a recommendation.

IG Ayala said that with the retirement of Deputy General (Assistant Chief) James Lopez, January 31, 2026, the departure leaves significant void. OIG directly reports to Public Safety Commission. Inspector General Ayala requested appointment of Major Adam Kinslow to be the Assistant Chief of the Office of Inspector General, effective February 1, 2026.

Qualifications:

- DPS service: Since 1997
- Career progression:
 - Trooper, Highway Patrol
 - Highway Patrol Sergeant
 - Pilot, Aircraft Operations Division (brief period)
 - Returned to Highway Patrol
 - Lieutenant, Executive Protective Bureau
 - 2015: Joined Office of Inspector General as Lieutenant Investigator
 - 2018: Promoted to Captain
 - 2023: Appointed to EEO position when incorporated into OIG
 - February 1, 2026: Serving in interim Assistant Chief role

He is endorsed by Inspector General Ayala's highest recommendation, and described as excellent reputation, professional, and will ensure continuity of operations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long to appoint Major Adam Kinslow as Assistant Chief, Office of Inspector General, effective February 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blair. The motion passed.

- B. Report, discussion, and possible action regarding ongoing criminal investigations pursuant to Government Code § 411.0041 (Executive Session anticipated)

This item was handled in Executive Session.

X. REPORTS

- A. Commission member reports and discussion
- B. Finance Report
- C. Chief Auditors Office
- D. Division status reports on activities and action

No additional reports were presented.

XI. CONSENT ITEMS

All the following items may be enacted with one motion. These items are typically self-explanatory or have been previously considered by the Commission. There will be no separate discussion of these matters unless a commissioner so requests.

- A. Advice and consent regarding Colonel's determination that certain probationary employees were found unsuitable for work during December 2025 and January 2026
- B. Discussion and possible action on appointments of Special Rangers and Special Texas Rangers pursuant to Government Code Chapter 411, Secs. 411.023 and 411.024: Special Rangers: James Edward Blacknell, Gary Wayne Durham, Ruben Rodriguez Elizondo, Nick John Jimenez, and Brian Luke Vajdos, and Special Texas Ranger: Jerry Douglas Byrne, Jr.
- C. Donations:
 1. Texas Rangers Division – Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI); 2021 Mercedes Benz, GLE 53, AMG 4-matic, up-armored, 4-door SUV with an approximate value of \$188,000
 2. Texas Rangers Division – Texas Rangers Association Foundation (TRAF); two Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Units, along with monetary funding of approximately \$202,136 for the procurement of additional equipment to support search and recovery operations for the Kerrville flooding, with an approximate total value of \$240,214.65
 3. Texas Rangers Division – Texas Rangers Association Foundation (TRAF); Crisis Negotiations Unit (CNU) Trailer, with a total estimated value of \$60,000
 4. Additional donation items, as needed

Chairman Mach asked Lt. Colonel Jason Taylor if there were any concerns with the Consent Items and Lt. Colonel Taylor said that there were none.

XII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Chairman Mach asked the Board to send any agenda requests to General Counsel Phil Adkins or to Sophie Yanez.

XIII. DATE FOR FUTURE MEETING

Discharge hearings will be scheduled for April 8, 2026; and the regular Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026.

The next PSC Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026.

XIV. ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

(If required) to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers or to receive legal advice on items posted on this agenda; deliberation regarding real estate matters; consideration of any other items authorized by law, including personnel matters, the director's action of discharging employees as identified in this agenda; ongoing criminal investigations

Chairman Mach adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 11:44 a.m.

XV. ADJOURN

The Commission may take items out of the order in which they are posted on this agenda. Also, an item that has been adopted, passed upon, delayed or tabled for a later meeting may be considered or reconsidered at the same meeting.

The Public Safety Commission may meet and discuss it in Executive Session and have action taken in an Open Meeting where required on the following items:

Government Code Sec. 551.071 Consultation and deliberation with legal counsel about pending or contemplated litigation or a settlement offer, or on a matter where the Commissioners seek the advice of their attorney as privileged communications under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas, and to discuss the Open Meetings Act and the Administrative Procedures Act with their attorney

Government Code Sec. 551.074 Appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of director, assistant director, and persons appointed to management team positions pursuant to Govt. Code Sec. 411.0071

Government Code Sec. 551.076 Deliberations about security audits, security devices, including deployment and implementation of security personnel and devices Government

Code Chapter 411, Sec. 411.0041 Ongoing criminal investigations Government Code Sec. 551.072

Deliberation of the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the government body in negotiations with a third person

Government Code Sec. 551.073 Deliberation of a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the state or the governmental body if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person

