PORT OF GALVESTON
REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION AND TRUSTEES ACTION

BUSINESS ITEM

PREPARED BY: Kenneth Campbell  Director of Public Safety  May 26, 2020

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider Adoption of the Texas Transportation Code and the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BACKGROUND: We are requesting the adoption of the Texas Transportation Act and the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Adoption of this body of Texas traffic law would result the use of standardized traffic engineering or traffic investigative techniques to implement changes in the posted speed limits within the cruise terminal complex. It would also require the use of a uniform standard of both regulatory and informational signage and street markings that are universally used and commonly recognized by drivers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED:  No ______  Yes  x  

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Board of Trustees is respectfully requested to review and approve the adoption of the Texas Transportation Code and the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Respectfully Submitted By:

[Signature]
Rodger Rees, Port Director/CEO

DATE ACTION TAKEN:

Approved:  
Disapproved:  
Deferred To:  
Incorporated into Minutes:  

Motion By:  
Seconded By:  
Unanimous:  Yes  ______  No  ______  
By:  

By:
PORT OF GALVESTON
Briefing
DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE
AND THE TEXAS MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES AS
AMENDED

Background

Over the past year, the Public Safety Department has been working to improve and professionalize
the Port Police Department while maintaining our commitment to our core responsibilities of the
Facility Security Plan. We have adopted best practices, in use by other professional law
enforcement agencies and filled key positions with qualified police managers. We have cut costs
and reduced our reliance on the use of Contract Police Officers used to direct traffic on cruise days.
Through the use of judicious staffing and directed patrols, we will have Port Police Officers
available to quickly respond to any terminal incidents and assistance requests.

We are requesting the adoption of the Texas Transportation Act and the Texas Manual on Uniform
Traffic Control Devices. Adoption of this body of Texas traffic law would result in the use of
standardized traffic engineering or traffic investigative techniques to implement changes in the
posted speed limits within the cruise terminal complex. It would also require the use of a uniform
standard of both regulatory and informational signage and street markings that are universally used
and commonly recognized by drivers. These changes would have multiple positive effects and
will result in the clear designation fire lanes, no parking zones, as well as, standardized way-finding
signage to identify loading and unloading zones and the identification of transportation options for
the traveling public. These changes should result in more efficient traffic movement and an
improvement in traffic flow for both private and commercial customers. Additionally, the
adoption of these laws would create eligibility for the POG Police Department to apply for special
program grant funding through state and federal agencies.

Current Situation

Currently, signage and street markings are designed by in-house personnel on an as needed basis.
The size of the signs, lettering and color are not uniformly consistent with state adopted standards.
Street markings, similarly do not conform to state standards or uniformity. Consequently, drivers
are often confused by the placement and design of the markings, which makes traffic direction
more of a challenge.

Fiscal Impact

Texas Transportation Code:

The adoption of the Texas Transportation Code would result in the use of standardized traffic
engineering or traffic investigative techniques to implement changes in the posted speed limits
within the cruise terminal complex, as well as, the continued enforcement of all applicable state
statutes. Additionally, adoption of the Transportation Code would also qualify the Port Police Department as eligible to apply for grant funding for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and possibly other state and federally funded grant programs.

**Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices:**

The adoption of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and application of standard street markings and the placement of uniform, enforceable, regulatory and informational signs will assist with traffic control and improve the customer experience.

**Staff Recommendation**

It is respectfully recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the foregoing request. The adoption of the Texas Transportation Code and the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and subsequent amendments is permitted by state law for both public and private roadways for public use. Links to both sections of the law are provided for your review.

Attachments

https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/SDocs/TRANSPORTATIONCODE.pdf


5-26-2020