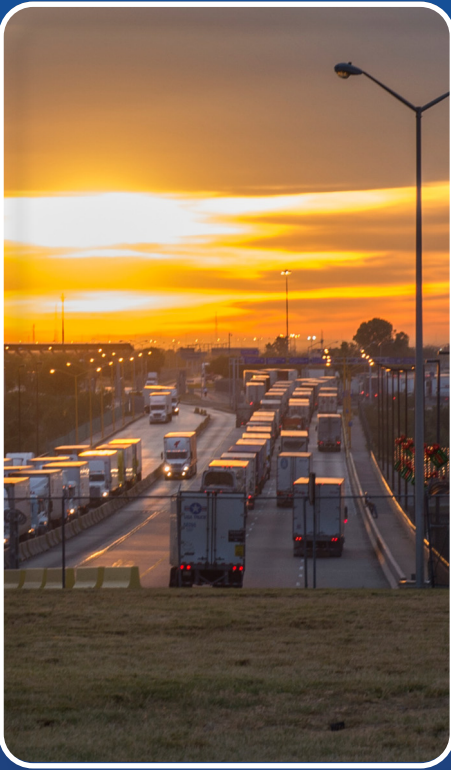


Border Trade Advisory Committee Meeting



International Center for Trade
3295 Bob Roger's Dr., Eagle Pass, Texas 78852

February 10, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST



Meeting Agenda

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Coffee and Networking

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Safety Minute

Mr. Jorge Almada Diaz, International Trade and Border Planning Coordinator, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Welcome and Introductions

• Roll call



Hon. Jane Nelson

Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee (BTAC)



Hon. Aaron Valdez

Mayor, City of Eagle Pass



Hon. Eddie Morales, Jr.

Representative, Texas House of Representatives



Hon. Ramsey English Cantu,

County Judge, Maverick County



Mr. Alvin New,

Acting Chair, Texas Transportation Commission



Mr. Alejandro "Alex" G. Meade III

Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission



Mrs. Caroline A. Mays, AICP,

Texas Department of Transportation



Hon. Vívian Juárez Mondragón,

Consul of Mexico in Eagle Pass



Hon. Susan Harper,

Consulate General of Canada in Dallas

Border Trade Advisory Committee Members

9:00 – 9:05 a.m.

Adoption of the August 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Hon. Jane Nelson, Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee

Committee adopts minutes from last meeting.

9:05 – 9:20 a.m.

BTAC Statutory History, Roles and Responsibilities

Ms. Allyson Orr, State Legislative Affairs Liaison, TxDOT

Overview of BTAC history, purpose, goals, objectives and significance

Meeting Agenda

9:20 – 10:40 a.m.	Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan Update Mr. Sergio Vasquez , Border Program Manager, International Trade and Border Planning, TxDOT Mr. Krishna Satti , Consultant Mr. Will Smithson , Consultant	Provide an update to the update of the Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan and gather BTAC member's feedback and guidance on the update. Questions, Comments. Discussion
10:40 – 11:05 a.m.	TxDOT District Update Mr. Epigmenio Gonzalez, P.E. , Laredo District Engineer, TxDOT	Update from TxDOT District in current and future infrastructure improvements in the Laredo District and I-27 corridor.
11:05 – 11:50 a.m.	Presentations – The Future of International Trade in the Region Mr. Homero Balderas , City Manager, City of Eagle Pass Hon. Ramsey English Cantu , County Judge, Maverick County Mr. Ruben Garibay , Chief Executive Officer, Puerto Verde Hon. Al Arreola , Mayor, City of Del Rio	Presentation on the importance of international trade and overview of future international bridges and bridge expansions and their impact on economic development.
11:50 – 12:00 p.m.	Open Discussion – Future Meetings and Topics Hon. Jane Nelson , Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee	Discuss any outstanding issues and summary of action items and future meetings and topics.
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn Hon. Jane Nelson , Texas Secretary of State and Chair, Border Trade Advisory Committee	



Hon. Jane Nelson

Texas Secretary of State and Chair,
Border Trade Advisory Committee

Secretary Nelson is a businesswoman and former teacher who served two terms on the State Board of Education and 30 years as a State Senator representing North Texas.

The first woman in Texas legislative history to chair a standing budget-writing committee, Secretary Nelson was Chair of the Senate Finance Committee for four sessions. She was a member of the Senate State Affairs Committee, which oversees election policy, for eight sessions. She served as chair of the Sunset Advisory Commission, the Nominations Committee, the Select Committee on Cybersecurity and the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. She was also a member of the Legislative Budget Board, the Legislative Audit Committee and the Privacy Protection Advisory Council.

Secretary Nelson and her husband, J. Michael Nelson, owned and operated an aircraft component manufacturing company in Denton County. They have five children and 12 grandchildren.



Hon. Aaron Valdez

Mayor, City of Eagle Pass

Aaron E. Valdez is a lifelong Eagle Pass resident, entrepreneur, and public servant whose leadership is grounded in family and community. Born and raised in Eagle Pass, he grew up in a family committed to service and carries those values into every aspect of his work. A graduate of Eagle Pass High School, Valdez excelled on the football field and brought that same drive into his professional and civic life.

Valdez pursued studies in Mortuary Science and Business Administration with a focus on finance. He continued his family's legacy in the funeral profession while also founding Maverick County's first solar energy installation company—demonstrating a commitment to both tradition and forward-looking innovation.

His dedication to public service is long-standing. Valdez organized Eagle Pass's first Earth Day celebration, mentored local youth, and has worked consistently to empower the next generation. As President of the Maverick County Hospital District Board of Directors, he helped guide the district to financial stability without raising taxes.

At the center of Valdez's life is his family, whose support and shared values motivate his service. With deep roots in Eagle Pass and a passion for strengthening the community, he continues to focus on building a more sustainable and prosperous future for the place he has always called home.



Hon. Eddie Morales, Jr.

Representative, Texas House of
Representatives

Hon. Eddie "Eddie" Morales Jr. serves as the State Representative for Texas House District 74, one of the state's largest and most diverse districts, spanning 11 counties and more than 770 miles along the U.S.–Mexico border. Born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico and raised in Eagle Pass, he graduated from Eagle Pass High School before earning a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with minors in Business and Spanish from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from St. Mary's University School of Law. Morales built a respected career as an attorney and business owner, becoming a partner at Langley & Banack, Inc. and helping lead his family's long standing local business, the

Piedras Negras Tortilla Factory. Elected in 2020, Representative Morales has quickly established himself as a pragmatic, effective legislator known for his bipartisan approach to improving infrastructure, strengthening border communities, expanding healthcare access, supporting public education, and promoting job creation. In his first term, he passed over 30 bills and has since continued to serve in key leadership roles, including being appointed Vice Chair of the House Energy Resources Committee. Beyond the Capitol, he remains deeply committed to his community through civic service, legal advocacy, and mentorship. Morales and his wife, Hellen, are proud parents to three children—a clinical counseling graduate student, a special education teacher, and a law student—reflecting the family’s shared dedication to service and education.



Hon. Ramsey English Cantú,
County Judge, Maverick County

Hon. Ramsey English Cantú is a longtime public servant and community leader who currently serves as Maverick County Judge, bringing more than a decade of executive and governmental experience to the role. Before becoming County Judge, Cantú served ten years as Mayor of Eagle Pass, following his earlier service on the city council. His tenure in local government has been defined by steady leadership through periods of rapid change, including managing immigration surges along the U.S.–Mexico border and coordinating closely with local, state, and international partners. As County Judge, he continues to focus on public safety, regional coordination, economic stability, and addressing the evolving needs of a border community.

Throughout his career, Judge Cantú has balanced responsive crisis leadership with a commitment to pragmatic governance and community well being. His experience spans intergovernmental collaboration, infrastructure needs, and hands on engagement with residents facing complex social and economic challenges. Cantú’s work has also placed him at the center of regional conversations on immigration, public services, and community resilience—reinforcing his belief that strong leadership stems from transparency, accountability, and understanding the day to day realities of the people he serves.



Mr. Alvin New

Acting Chair, Texas Transportation
Commission, TxDOT

Mr. Alvin New is a member of the Texas Transportation Commission, which oversees statewide activities of the Texas Department of Transportation. New is a business investor, rancher and former San Angelo Mayor. New is a lifelong resident of West Texas and was born in Brownfield. He has lived mostly in or near San Angelo since 1981. New spent most of his career with Town & Country Food Stores. He started as a clerk while getting his business administration degree from Angelo State University. New worked his way up to chief executive officer and part owner. He and his partners sold their stake in the convenience store chain about a decade ago. He currently serves as a member of the Texas Tech University Foundation Board and the Goodfellow Air Force Base Advisory Council. New earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration in management from Angelo State University. Commissioner New was appointed February 20, 2018, and re-appointed April 8, 2021. His second term will expire February 2027.



Mr. Alejandro "Alex" G. Meade III
Commissioner, Texas Transportation
Commission, TxDOT

Alejandro "Alex" G. Meade III is a member of the Texas Transportation Commission, which oversees statewide activities of the Texas Department of Transportation. He was appointed commissioner by Governor Greg Abbott on March 21, 2023. Meade, who lives in Mission, was appointed to serve on the commission for a term set to expire Feb. 1, 2025. Meade is a Brownsville native, who previously served as the city manager of Pharr, where he managed a \$200 million budget and almost 700 employees. He also has served as the chief executive officer of the Mission Economic Development Corporation. His career also includes positions as principal of P3 Economics, an economic development consulting firm in Brownsville; the director of Economic Development at the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce; and private sector positions in accounting and management. Meade, earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in economics from St. Edward's University. He earned a master's in business administration from the University of Texas at Brownsville, and a master's in public administration from the University of Texas-Pan American. He is certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) and is a Certified Public Manager (CPM). Meade is an alumnus of the Texas Lyceum and is a board member of the Border Trade Alliance, former board of regent for Texas State Technical College System, and a former member of the Texas Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.



Mrs. Caroline A. Mays, AICP
Director, Planning and Modal Programs,
TxDOT

Caroline Mays is a senior-level leader with more than 24 years of multimodal transportation planning, programing, policy, project development, and implementation experience at the local, regional, state, and international levels, having held various leadership roles at all four levels.

Ms. Mays joined the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in late 2012 and has held several positions. Ms. Mays is a member of TxDOT's senior leadership team and currently serves as the Director of Planning and Modal Programs. In this role, she directs and oversees all the transportation planning activities of the agency including Aviation, Maritime, Public Transportation, Rail, and Transportation Planning and Programming Divisions. Ms. Mays is a member of the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners. She serves as the Chair of the Association of American State Highway Transportation Official's (AASHTO) Special Committee on Freight and is a member of the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Planning and Logistics Committee. Ms. Mays also serves on the World Road Association (PIARC) Technical Committee on Freight as a representative of AASHTO and the United States.

Ms. Mays holds a Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo, Canada and a Master's degree of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto, Canada.



Hon. Vivian Juárez Mondragón,
Consul of Mexico in Eagle Pass

Hon. Vivian Juárez Mondragón is a career diplomat in the Mexican Foreign Service, where she has served since 1994 and currently holds the rank of Minister. With more than 17 years of dedicated consular experience, she has built a distinguished trajectory across multiple regions—including Europe, Latin America, and North America—bringing deep expertise in consular affairs, bilateral relations, multilateral regional engagement, and diplomatic protocol. Prior to her appointment as Consul of Mexico in Eagle Pass, Texas, she served as Consul Adscrita in Miami, New York, and Albuquerque, and held key roles at the Mexican embassies in Switzerland and Colombia. Her career within the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores also includes leadership posts in protocol, political coordination, and international liaison with Mexican states and municipalities.

Appointed as Consul of Mexico in Eagle Pass on March 16, 2023, Hon. Juárez Mondragón is the first woman to hold this position in the city's history. She brings a strong academic foundation with a degree in International Relations from Universidad Iberoamericana and a Master's in Diplomatic Studies from the Instituto Matías Romero. Known for her commitment to community-focused diplomacy, she works to strengthen cross-border collaboration, enhance services for Mexican nationals, and expand initiatives through the Ventanilla de Salud and other outreach programs. Her leadership is widely recognized for its focus on empowerment, innovation, and deep engagement with local partners on both sides of the U.S.–Mexico border.



Hon. Susan Harper,
Consulate General of Canada in Dallas

Susan Harper has served as the Consul General of Canada in Dallas since 2022, representing the Government of Canada across a five-state region that includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. As the senior Canadian diplomat in this territory, she oversees a wide portfolio that spans economic cooperation, public and political affairs, consular services, and commercial engagement. Her office also works closely with the Consulate of Canada in Houston and coordinates with federal departments and Canadian provinces active in the region. Harper has held several senior diplomatic and leadership positions around the world. Before arriving in Dallas, she served as Consul General in Miami and previously led Canada's Arctic policy work as the country's Senior Arctic Official. She has also held major economic, trade, and policy roles in Washington, D.C., Montevideo, and postings in Europe, Africa, and South America. Harper's approach to diplomacy emphasizes collaboration, economic partnership, and strengthening ties between Canada and the southern United States. Her priorities include expanding trade and investment opportunities, promoting innovation and energy cooperation, and ensuring high-quality services for Canadians living or traveling in the region. Before joining the Government of Canada, Harper taught at Cambrian College and George Brown College. She holds an MBA from the Ivey School of Business at Western University and an Honours BA in Math and English from Queen's University. Harper has two children who keep her diplomatic, cross-border travel, and problem-solving skills sharp.



Mr. Homero Balderas, City Manager,
City of Eagle Pass

Homero Balderas serves as City Manager for the City of Eagle Pass, Texas, where he oversees municipal operations and leads strategic initiatives in infrastructure, economic development, and international trade. Under his leadership, the Port of Eagle Pass has experienced significant growth and national recognition, positioning it as one of the fastest-growing and most strategic ports of entry along the Texas–Mexico border.

Mr. Balderas has been a driving force behind advancing the Port’s potential—actively championing the Port of Eagle Pass through regional, state, and binational outreach, traveling to promote its capabilities, and pioneering key conversations that have elevated Eagle Pass as a critical trade gateway. His efforts have strengthened partnerships, supported major infrastructure projects such as the Camino Real International Bridge expansion, and advanced regional mobility initiatives including improvements to U.S. Highway 57.

Previously serving as International Bridge Director—where he was named Director of the Year in 2023—Mr. Balderas brings deep operational expertise and a collaborative, forward-looking approach to border trade, transportation planning, and regional connectivity. His leadership continues to play a central role in shaping the future of cross-border commerce in Eagle Pass.



Mr. Ruben Garibay, Chief Executive
Officer, Puerto Verde

Ruben Garibay is an entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist from South Texas. He is recognized as a leading advocate for North American economic integration and for advancing transportation and trade connectivity through strategic binational rail and commercial crossings.

As Executive Chairman of Puerto Verde, Mr. Garibay leads a privately held industrial development company that is creating the most advanced integrated binational industrial complex and trade port in North America. Located in Eagle Pass, Texas, along the critical Ports to Plains and T-MEC trade corridors, Puerto Verde is designed to improve cross-border efficiency, reduce congestion, and open new economic opportunities throughout the region. The project has already secured a Presidential Permit for new port infrastructure and continues to coordinate closely with U.S. and Mexican federal and state agencies, as well as congressional and industry stakeholders.

Mr. Garibay also oversees the Garibay Family Office, managing a diversified portfolio with investments in agriculture, ranching, construction materials, mining, and land development.

Ruben Garibay believes deeply in maintaining balance between professional success and personal well-being. He dedicates time to mentoring and volunteering in the communities he serves and finds fulfillment in spending time with his four children.



Hon. Al Arreola, Mayor, City of Del Rio

Mayor Alvaro “Al” Arreola has devoted more than three decades to public service in Del Rio and the surrounding region. Elected mayor in 2022, he has focused his tenure on strengthening community infrastructure, expanding investments in public safety, and supporting the work of law enforcement and first responders. A committed advocate for his border community, Arreola’s ties to the region run deep.

Born in Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico, Arreola moved to the United States in 1967 with his mother as one of nine siblings. He graduated from Del Rio High School in 1977 and has remained rooted in the community ever since.

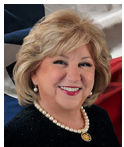
Mayor Arreola has long been an active community volunteer and leader. He served on the San Felipe

Del Rio C.I.S.D. Board of Trustees from 1997–2003 and on the Del Rio City Council from 2010–2014. He later served on the Del Rio Economic Development Corporation from 2018–2021, and the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Board from 2018–2022. He currently serves on the Middle Rio Grande Workforce Finance Committee, further reflecting his commitment to strengthening regional opportunities.

A businessman as well as a public servant, Arreola is known for his focus on community-driven improvements and his dedication to ensuring Del Rio’s continued growth and safety. His priorities include enhancing public services, improving quality of life, and ensuring that the city remains a secure, welcoming place for families.

Arreola has been married to his wife, Myrella, for 42 years. They are the proud parents of Al Jr. and Myrella Isabel.

Border Trade Advisory Committee



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Jane Nelson
Presiding Officer



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Mission Economic
Development Corporation



Kyle Morgan
CPKC Railway



Rafael M. Aldrete
Texas A&M
Transportation Institute



Ruben Garibay
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Juan Olaguibel
The McAllen–Hidalgo
International Bridge



Mayor
Alvaro Arreola
City of Del Rio



Cynthia Garza-Reyes
Pharr Economic
Development Corporation



Gerardo Schwebel
International Bank
of Commerce



Jon Barela
Borderplex Alliance



Jake Giesbrecht
Presidio International
Port Authority



Pete Sepulveda, Jr.
Cameron County
Bridge System



Luis Alfredo Bazán
Pharr International
Bridge



Maria-Elena Giner
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and Water Commission



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Bridge System



Eduardo Calvo
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Texas Trucking
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Stan Meador
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Transportation



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