



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Summary of February 23, 2015 Meeting

DPCAC Considers Impacts on Roads from Port and Industrial Growth

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) recently invited Bruce Mann, Freight Mobility Director for the Port of Houston Authority (POHA), to talk about *Impacts on Roads from Industrial Growth and Panama Canal Expansion*.

Mann said population in the Houston area is expected to grow 9.2% in the next 5 years. The state population is projected to double by 2040, with most people living east of I-35. More people means more consumable goods, which means more freight to be shipped. Between now and 2040, rail freight is projected almost to double and truck traffic to more than double.

Both the Bayport and Barbours Cut container terminals will continue to grow not only due to this increase in population but also due to expansion in the local petrochemical industry.

To prepare for these changes, POHA has extended its gate hours and participates in the region's Freight Mobility Planning for road and rail. The port is dredging at Bayport and Barbours Cut terminals and installing new cranes to accommodate larger container ships. New technology automatically captures shipment identification information so the driver need not stop to provide it. A Smart Phone app lets drivers check on the status of the container they are picking up to reduce turnaround time. When trucks idle less, their emissions are lower.

When DPCAC members discussed the presentation, some found the growth numbers intimidating. They are concerned about the impacts on traffic, roads, air quality, and local taxpayers as the area copes with this anticipated growth in freight traffic. Mann's slides provide additional details. See www.deerparkcac.org.

The next regular DPCAC meeting will be on June 1. In March, members will celebrate the group's 25th anniversary. In April, they will take plant tours in lieu of a regular meeting.

For information about DPCAC, contact facilitator Diane Sheridan at 281-326-5253. Visit www.deerparkcac.org to read recent meeting topics, find links to useful resources on emergency communications and the environment, see lists of DPCAC community and plant

members, and read our mission and purpose statements.