



3-25-04
#29

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Austan S. Librach, P.E., AICP
Director
Transportation, Planning & Sustainability Department

DATE: March 23, 2004

SUBJECT: Description of Proposed Inspection and Maintenance Program - Item 29

The Inspection and Maintenance Program (I/M) is scheduled for Council adoption on March 25, 2004. Below is a brief summary of the program.

The Inspection and Maintenance Program (I/M) requires all subject gasoline vehicles 2 to 24 years old registered and primarily operated in the I/M program counties to undergo an annual emissions inspection test in conjunction with the annual safety inspection. The emissions test fee is set by TCEQ, and it is anticipated to be up to \$20.

The On Board Diagnostics testing program will be used to test 1996 model year and newer vehicles. The Two-Speed Idle testing program will be used to test 1995 model year and older vehicles. The I/M program also includes a high emitter (remote sensing) program, run by the Department of Public Safety, to identify vehicles that are significantly exceeding Federal vehicle emission standards.

All fees are at the discretion of the TCEQ. The anticipated \$20 fee includes a fee (~\$3.00) to support the Low Income Repair Assistance Program, testing equipment costs (estimated at <\$15,000 per station) and the costs of the high emitter program. The existing safety inspection fee is \$12.50, so the combined inspection cost is not expected to exceed \$32.50.

If a vehicle fails the emissions inspection test the vehicle should be repaired and returned to the same inspection station within 15 days for a free re-test. An individual vehicle waiver is available in the unusual cases where a vehicle repeatedly failed the emissions inspection after a minimum of \$600 in emissions related repairs have been performed by a registered repair facility.

The program has been widely accepted in the counties around Dallas-Fort Worth, and in most of the counties around Houston. Typically 75-80% of the safety inspection garages participate in the first year and an additional 5-10% participate in the second year. .

If you need additional information please contact me at 974-2357 or Fred Blood at 974-3533.

Austan S. Librach, P.E., AICP
Director

TRANSPORTATION, PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT

cc: Toby H. Futrell, City Manager
Lisa Y. Gordon, Assistant City Manager
Tom Forrest, Assistant Director
Fred Blood, Sustainability Officer