

MEETING SUMMARY
REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, April 27, 2018

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met at 10 am on April 27, 2018 at NCTCOG offices.

Members in Attendance

Rich Larkins, Chair, City of Grapevine; George Barnes, Dallas Area Rapid Transit; John Denholm, Lee Engineering; Rama Dhanikonda, City of Plano; Buz Elsom, Rockwall County; Chris Flanigan, City of Allen; Tamara Gart, TxDOT Dallas District; Kirk Houser, City of Dallas; Paul Iwuchukwu, City of Arlington; Minh Le, Texas Transportation Institute; Alonzo Linan, City of Keller; Laura Melton, City of Burleson; Brian Moen, City of Frisco; Yang Ouyang, North Texas Tollway Authority; Cody Owen, City of Irving; Mohammed Quadeer, TxDOT Fort Worth District; Randy Skinner, Tarrant County; Matthew Tilke, City of McKinney; Mark Titus, City of Richardson.

Non-Members/Guests in Attendance

Monsur Ahmed, City of Arlington; Jason Crawford, TTI; Heather Lott, TxDOT – TRF; Joseph Marchione, City of Dallas; Darren McDaniel, TxDOT – TRF; Andy Oberlander, TxDOT Dallas District; Jessica Son, TxDOT – TRF; Gaby Tassin, Alliance TG

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger, Camille Fountain, Sonya Jackson Landrum, Kevin Kokes, Kevin Kroll, Barbara Walsh

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Approval of January 26, 2018 Meeting Summary
2. Safety, Innovative Construction, and Emergency Projects Program Funding Opportunity
3. Takata Airbag Recall Update
4. Road to Zero Grant Opportunity and Project Idea
5. Vision Zero and Road to Zero Death Campaign Initiative
6. Funding Multi-Lane Roundabout Study Discussion
7. Update Items
8. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements
9. Other Business
10. Next RSAC Meeting: April 27, 2018

1. Approval of January 26, 2018 Meeting Summary – Rich Larkins, Chair, City of Grapevine

The committee accepted the January meeting summary as written.

2. State Highway 161 Safety Shoulder Implementation Study/Findings – Jason Crawford, P.E., Texas Transportation Institute

Jason Crawford presented on the findings of a study completed for Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Dallas as State Highway (SH) 161 Hard-Shoulder running in peak-hour lanes was implemented in a way to capture both the operational and safety effects of the project. The project had a \$4.25 million cost for installation of traffic cameras, dynamic message signs (DMS), lighting, and emergency areas. Before data was collected in November 2013; construction began May 2014 and ended September 2015. After data was collected in May 2016. Partners working with TTI on the project were TxDOT, North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA), City of Irving, and NCTCOG. Improvements included adjusting placement of overhead static signs, removing ground-level static signs, designating emergency parking areas, and DMS notification entering corridors.

NCTCOG provided the speed data. The improvements showed an average 21 mph increase in speed in the morning northbound peak hours, and an average 18 mph increase in the afternoon southbound peak hours. The morning operational hours (6:00-9:00 am) showed a 46 percent increase in speeds. During the AM peak hours (7:00-9:00 am) speeds increased 84 percent. In the afternoon operational period (3:00-7:00 pm), speeds increased 25 percent. During the PM peak hours (4:00-6:00 pm), speeds increased 32 percent, all showing significant travel speed increases. Overall volume increased by 1,100 more vehicles traveling northbound; 1,700 more vehicles traveling southbound.

3. Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan Emphasis Areas and Action Plan – Darren McDaniel, P.E., TxDOT Austin

Darren McDaniel presented on the 2017 – 2022 Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) produced last year. . The SHSP governs the Texas Highway Safety Plan (HSP) and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), acting as the “umbrella” for the safety plan. The SHSP has several ideas and action items that can be done in safety, but does not provide the funding. The SHSP is organized, offering history and accomplishments, structure and development process, target setting strategy, plan coordination, and emphasis areas, action plans, and countermeasures for safety. Emphasis areas include distracted driving, impaired driving, intersection safety, older users (which is a federal requirement), pedestrian safety, roadway and lane departure, and speeding.

The executive committee recently adopted the marketing logo “Texas Together on the Road to Zero”. The Dallas-Fort Worth SHSP regional workshop is scheduled for May 15 at NCTCOG, 9 am – 12 noon. The work plan will be finalized after all workshops are completed. Darren listed the 2018 Traffic Safety Conference scheduled for August 8, 2018, in Sugarland, Texas. All information presented today, and more, is available on website www.texasshsp.com. Today’s presentation is available on the [RSAC website](#).

4. Highway Safety Improvement Program Funding – Heather Lott, P.E., TxDOT Austin

Heather Lott is new to Texas and TxDOT. Heather is the Traffic Safety Engineer Section Director in the Traffic Operations Division of TxDOT. She oversees the HSIP. Summarizing the 2017 program, she stated that 1,685 projects were submitted at an estimated cost of \$2,334,363,453. About 1,500 of these had a safety improvement index (SII) of 1.00 or greater. A total of 785 projects were approved for funding, at a cost of \$298,594,640 – over a four-year period. Heather displayed statewide HSIP district totals of projects submitted and funded; and the categories.

This year the program deadline was shifted allowing submitting agencies better access to completed data necessary for project submittal, and to not conflict with other district deadlines. Project prioritization is being removed, and certain work codes no longer being used. Districts will also be given a second chance to review projects and changes after her office has reviewed them. The Call for Projects will open in early June, and selected projects will be announced in early December. Today's presentation is available on the [RSAC website](#).

5. Texas Highway Safety Plan Funding Call – Jessica Son, MPA, CTM, TxDOT Austin

Jessica Son explained funding for the traffic safety program. The traffic safety program is responsible for administering National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) funds awarded through the traffic safety grants. TxDOT also contributes but the funding from NHTSA was the topic today, as that is what's available through grants. Funding examples reflected non-engineering projects.

The goal of the traffic safety program is to identify traffic safety problem areas and programs to reduce the number and severity of traffic-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities. There are 14 non-engineering program areas, including pedestrian and bicycle safety, driver education and behavior, railroad grade crossing, and school bus safety, and others. Jessica discussed the 2019 Request for Proposals schedule. Special consideration is given to high priority needs proposals, and funding is considered for proposal projects that further progress towards meeting the HSP performance targets in any area. Today's presentation is available on the [RSAC website](#).

6. NCTCOG 2017 Safety Performance Report Highlights

Camille Fountain and Kevin Kroll provided an overview of the 2017 Safety Performance Measures. The numbers come from TxDOT's Crash Record Information System (CRIS). The region experienced a -4.7 percent decrease in crashes in 2017. Dallas County showed the highest decrease in crashes at -9.18 percent. Fatalities did not decrease. Camille listed the top 10 contributing factors for serious injury and fatal crashes on limited-access only facilities. The regional crash rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled for 2017 is 70.21 percent in the metropolitan planning area. Of the 12 counties in the MPA, eight had a crash rate below the average.

Kevin Kroll reported on 2017 HazMat stats. Data comes from the National Response Center. There were 18 HazMat incidents on limited-access facilities in the region, an increase from 11 in 2016. Ten of the 18 occurred in Dallas County. The Mobility Assistance Patrol Program's coverage and routes stayed similar to 2016. The North Texas Tollway Authority was due to open the toll road on SH 360 in May, adding to the coverage area. The five MAPP agencies reported a total of over 130,000 assists.

7. Update Items

- a) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Portable Scales RFP Update – Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG

NCTCOG had given approval to move forward with this program, and it has been forwarded to TxDOT. This program will provide portable weighing scales to CVE agencies in the region at no charge to them. A Request for Proposals will go out after TxDOT approval is received.

- b) Takata Airbag Recall Mailout Assistance – Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG

NCTCOG staff continues to work with Ken Benson, the regional coordinator for the Takata Airbag Recall program, to get recall information out to the public. Using vehicle registration information provided by the air quality team, owners of the alpha vehicles (Hondas and Acuras, 2001 – 2003 models) which are the most dangerous were targeted to be sent a direct mailer urging them to get their vehicles checked and air bag replaced as necessary.

- c) Updated Traffic Incident Management Attendance Tracking – Camille Fountain, NCTCOG

The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) attendance tracking system has changed. The change is in the reporting of agencies in attendance since 2013, the last time material had major changes and updates. TIM attendance is one of the criteria used in calls for projects and for consideration of agencies requesting to attend photogrammetry workshops. Attendance will continue to be tracked from 2003, when the TIM training began.

- d) TIM Equipment Purchase Call for Projects Schedule – Camille Fountain, NCTCOG

A handout of the proposed schedule for the Fiscal Year 2018 Incident Management Equipment Call for Projects (CFP) was available. Equipment and technology used in the mitigation of traffic crashes is eligible for the CFP. Pending STTC and RTC action for approval to conduct the CFP, it is proposed to open in September 2018 for 60 days; close in November 2018. The current schedule proposes selected projects be presented to the RSAC in January 2019, and presented to NCTCOG's Executive Board for approval in April 2019.

- e) Update on STBG Safety Funding – Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Sonya updated members on the 2017-2018 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding program for safety, innovative, construction and emergency projects that the TIP team has been working on the last few months. The list of projects was recommended to and approved by the RTC at their April meeting. Thirty million dollars is allocated for safety-related programs throughout the region. Some of the projects include an extension of the wrong way driver mitigation program, and funding for ISIP intersections. The money is allotted for funding fiscal years 2020 – 2022.

- f) 2018-2019 RSAC Membership Appointments and Vice Chair Opportunity – Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Today was current Chair Rich Larkins' last meeting as Chair. He was thanked for his service. Co-Chair Matt Hotelling will assume the Chair position beginning with the July meeting. Sonya asked for a volunteer to assume the co-chair position.

The membership appointment letter will go out shortly to STTC members requesting placement of a new RSAC member or for the current member to retain the position. The July 27, 2018 will be the first meeting with new chair and co-chair and member appointees.

8. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements

- a) Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course – May 3, 2018, NCTCOG
- b) Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan Workshop – May 15, 2018, NCTCOG
- c) NCTCOG Photogrammetry Training 2018 Schedule
 - i. Basic: May 7-11, 2018
 - ii. Advanced: May 14-5, 2018
- d) Traffic Incident Management First Responder and Manager Course 2018 Schedule
 - i. May 30-31, NCTCOG
 - ii. July 18-19, NCTCOG
 - iii. September 12-13, NCTCOG
 - iv. October 17-18, NCTCOG
- e) Texas Traffic Safety Conference, August 8-10, 2018, Sugarland TX

9. Other Business (Old or New)

Sonya will send out an email with a registration link for the May 15, 2018 Strategic Highway Safety Plan Workshop, hosted at NCTCOG. She encouraged RSAC members to participate.

- 10.** The next meeting of the RSAC is July 27, 2018.

Chair Larkin concluded the meeting.