

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, August 24, 2018**

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met at 10 am on August 24, 2018, 2018 at NCTCOG offices.

**Members in Attendance**

Matt Hotelling, Chair, Town of Flower Mound; Alonzo Linan, Vice-Chair, City of Keller; George Barnes, Dallas Area Rapid Transit; Robert Caskey, City of Frisco; John Denholm, III, Lee Engineering; Caryl DeVries, City of Grand Prairie; Rama Dhanikonda, City of Plano; Phil Dupler, Trinity Metro; Buz Elsom, Rockwall County; Amelia Hayes, FHWA; Kirk Houser, City of Dallas; Paul Iwuchukwu, City of Arlington; Rich Larkins, City of Grapevine; Minh Le, Texas Transportation Institute; Laura Melton, City of Burleson; Yang Ouyang, North Texas Tollway Authority; Shawn Poe, City of Rowlett; Lisa Pyles, Town of Addison; Mohammed Quadeer, TxDOT Fort Worth District; David Salmon, City of Lewisville; Tom Simerly, City of Fort Worth; Randy Skinner, Tarrant County; Anthony Smith, Dallas County; Mark Titus, City of Richardson; Asma Tully, City of Allen.

**Non-Members/Guests in Attendance**

Andrew Hooker, Dallas County; Karen Dixon, Texas Transportation Institute; Tim Fornash, City of Fort Worth Police Dept.; Brian Stepp, City of Fort Worth Police Dept.; Kierra Williams, City of Dallas; Melanie Young, Maldonado Burkett.

**NCTCOG Staff in Attendance**

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

**Meeting Summary Outline**

1. Introduction of 2018 – 2019 RSAC Committee Chairs and Members
2. Approval of April 27, 2018 Meeting Summary
3. Fort Worth Abandoned Vehicle Program
4. Highway Safety Manual Update
5. Toward Zero Death Safety Initiative Update and NCT Regional Plan Development
6. Road Zipper System
7. Update Items
8. Safety-Related Reference Items, Topics or Training Courses
9. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements
10. Other Business
11. Next RSAC Meeting: October 26, 2018

## **1. Introduction of 2018-2019 RSAC Committee Members**

The new officers, members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

## **2. Approval of April 27, 2018 Meeting Summary – Matt Hotelling, Chair, Town of Flower Mound**

The April meeting summary was accepted as written.

## **3. Fort Worth Abandoned Vehicle Program – Sgt. Ryann Stepp, City of Fort Worth Police Department**

Sergeant Stepp provided an overview of the abandoned vehicle enforcement program and how the problem is addressed in the City of Fort Worth. Prior to the program being implemented, traffic control technicians patrolled downtown, marking vehicles at expired parking meters and booting vehicles with parking citations. A Fort Worth police officer asked to address the problem as he became aware of the high number of vehicles being left abandoned on the side of the highway. Once the Abandoned Vehicle/Freeway Clearance Unit program was approved in 2008, they began towing the vehicles off the highway facility.

The unit is staffed with civilian personnel called enforcement officers and assigned to traffic control, thus freeing up police officers to manage public safety issues. The goals of the unit are public safety, the free flow of traffic on highways through Fort Worth, and side street patrol. With the AVE unit and a couple of patrol officers, an accident on the freeway can be cleared, lanes opened and traffic flowing more quickly than the normal patrol officer can do.

One issue the unit has had is coordination between the freeway clearance unit and patrol officers, which can be addressed through training. The Traffic Incident Management course taught at NCTCOG has played a large part in the program working so well – having trained officers. Other issues are coordination of accident scenes; and communication between all parties involved in an accident scene. The situation can be better with coordination with patrol, the fire department, and TxDOT.

The presentation is available on the [RSAC website](#).

## **4. Highway Safety Manual Update – Karen Dixon, Ph.D., P.E., Texas Transportation Institute**

Karen Dixon has worked with the team for many years putting together the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Highway Safety Manual (HSM). Ms. Dixon provided an update on the existing HSM and what the next edition would look like.

The current HSM does not provide an estimate of how many crashes occurred on our roads. Crash data has been collected for many years of the types and locations of crashes, and it's time to use that information logically and try to predict what crashes could occur on a particular facility and make enhancements to accommodate that. Instead of waiting until a crash occurs to address the situation, lives can be saved by implementing countermeasures before a crash occurs.

The first HSM was published in 2010. It is a product owned by AASHTO and goes through an AASHTO balloting process, which means every state has to vote on it. The current manual received a unanimous vote at the first voting. Concentration was on rural two-lane highways with the highest number of crashes. This was a priority set for the first edition HSM. It is a three-volume, four-part manual, including chapters on human factors, fundamentals, the safety management process, predictive methods, and crash modification factors.

Ms. Dixon expanded on the research efforts and projects to the second edition (HSM2), scheduled to be out by the end of 2019. General changes include a review and update of all chapters; enhancement of the human factors chapter; clarification in terminology for crash modification factors (CMF) vs safety performance function (SPF) adjustment factors; change in the format of example calculations, and add sample problems. Bicycle and pedestrian methodologies are critical to the new edition. Critical enhancements for the second edition include incorporating expanded information about systemic safety; updating all existing safety performance functions; expanding bicycle and pedestrian content; and adding new SPF information including roundabouts, one-way urban arterials, and 6-lane urban arterials; elevate calibration from appendix to chapter; elevate weighting procedure; and completely revise CMF content.

Contract date and projected completion date is the end of 2019; however it will depend on the completion of the bicycle and pedestrian content, as it is a critical line item, review by the Highway Safety Committee of the Transportation Research Board, and balloting by AASHTO.

The presentation is available on the [RSAC website](#).

## **5. Toward Zero Death Safety Initiative Update – Amelia Hayes, FHWA, and Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG**

Amelia (Millie) Hays had some updates since Stephen Ratke's presentation to RSAC in January on Zero Deaths.

Millie presented today on: What is Vision Zero?; the Principles of Vision Zero; the comparison of Vision Zero, Toward Zero Deaths, and Road to Zero; and San Antonio and Austin Vision Zero programs. The overarching principles of Vision Zero are: No loss of life is acceptable; Traffic fatalities and injuries are preventable; and People will make mistakes.

Millie explained the five basic principles of Vision Zero and what is being done differently. Are we making sure the system is really working? We have an ethical responsibility to make facilities as safe as we can. She explained the difference between the three Zero Death campaigns. The Road to Zero Coalition is made up of 741 members across advocacy organizations, associations, automotive, business, education, government, insurance and public health agencies.

The cities of Austin and San Antonio are in the Vision Zero Network. A Vision Zero City meets the standards of: Setting clear goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries; Mayor has publicly and officially committed to Vision Zero; a Vision Zero plan or strategy is in place; and Key city departments are engaged.

Millie announced that a FHWA safety planning guide for metropolitan planning organizations will be released soon. FHWA is available if you need technical assistance. For more information, please contact Millie at [amelia.hayes@dot.gov](mailto:amelia.hayes@dot.gov) directly or visit the FHWA website at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/txdiv](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/txdiv).

Sonya Landrum added that NCTCOG is starting activities related to the development of a regional plan. Information will be provided via email to committee members regarding the regional plan over the next several months. More information will be provided at the October meeting.

## **6. Road Zipper System – Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG**

NCTCOG staff has floated the idea of whether regional partners would be interested in purchasing a road zipper system that could be used on construction sites. The zipper machine would allow for lanes on facilities under construction to be opened and closed dynamically. It could improve the safety of construction zones and it would allow flexibility in those lanes within the construction zone. It could be deployed to sites based on demand. Natalie wanted to gauge interest of regional partners in purchasing the system. While not knowing the price tag of the system, it may allow cost savings by allowing sharing across multiple projects instead of renting one from contractors, as is the current practice. Does this idea have any merit? Natalie asked for feedback from the committee. Handouts were available on the back table.

## **7. 2018 Traffic Incident Management Call for Projects Overview – Camille Fountain, NCTCOG**

Camille Fountain presented on the 2018 Incident Management Equipment Purchase Call for Projects (CFP). This CFP is essentially the same as the one held in 2014, with a couple of changes. One new requirement is the Buy America Certification Compliance, a federal regulation in which any of the equipment purchased or funded must be 100 percent domestic/Made in the USA. Two million dollars is available, to be split in the region (66% eastern/ 34% western) for equipment and technology used in the mitigation of crashes. Examples are traffic barriers, cones, signs, cameras, crash reconstruction technology, etc. Eligible recipients are police, fire/EMS, courtesy patrol and others involved in incident management in the 10-county nonattainment area in North Texas. Camille detailed the scoring criteria, and the proposed schedule. The Call for Projects will go to Surface Transportation Technical Committee and Regional Transportation Council requesting approval to open the CFP in October 2018.

The presentation is available on the [RSAC website](#).

## **8. Update Items**

### **a) Takata Airbag Recall Update**

In the interest of time, this topic was postponed to the October RSAC.

### **b) [City of Garland's Crash Data Analysis Software Survey](#)**

John Denholm – the City of Garland is interested in learning what software or database packages people are using to assist with crash analysis. Sonya will send out a link to the survey.

## **9. Safety-Related Reference Items, Topics, or Training Courses**

- a) [2017 Preliminary Data - Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State](#)
- b) [2016 Pedestrian Traffic Safety Fact Sheet](#)  
<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/Publication/812493>
- c) [2016 Bicyclists and Other Cyclists Traffic Safety Fact Sheet](#)  
<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812507>

## **10. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements**

- a) Traffic Incident Management First Responder and Manager Course
  - September 12-13, NCTCOG
  - October 17-18, NCTCOG

## **11. Other Business**

There was no other business brought forward.

## **12. Next RSAC Meeting**

The next meeting of the RSAC is October 26, 2018.

Chair Hotelling concluded the meeting.