

Strategic Highway Safety Plan
Stakeholders Committee Meeting Report
November 29, 2016

Attendees

Nathan Aubert - City of Austin	James Hoskins - Capital Metro
Lilly Banda - City of San Antonio	Daniel Jeffries - Texas Department of Transportation
Stanley Byrd - Texas Operation Lifesavers	Terri Kaplan - Texas Department of Transportation
Alex Carroll - Alamo Area MPO	Pete Krause - Texas Department of Transportation
Mindy Carroll - Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission	Amanda Martinez - Texas Department of Transportation
Paul Causey - Associated General Contractors of Texas	Darren McDaniel - Texas Department of Transportation
Michael Chacon - Texas Department of Transportation	Brian Moen - City of Frisco
Joanne Cisneros - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	Rebecca Pacini - City of San Antonio
Jay Blazek Crossley - Vision Zero ATX	David Palmer - Texas Department of Public Safety
Dan Dao - Texas Department of State Health Services	Terry Pence - Texas Department of Transportation
Wendy Dodson - Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Marcie Perez - Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Guillermo Dougherty - Texas Department of Transportation	Stephen Ratke - Federal Highway Administration
Clayton Elkins - Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Francis Reilly - City of Austin
Les Findeisen - Texas Trucking Association	Lisa Robinson - Our Driving Concern
Stephen Gage - Houston-Galveston Area Council	Joe Schmider - Texas Department of State Health Services EMS
Srinivas Geedipally - Texas A&M Transportation Institute	Robert Severance III - Cleburne Police Department

Patricia Gaffney – Texas Teen Safe Driving Coalition	Eva Shipp – Texas A&M Transportation Institute
Jaime Gutierrez – Mothers Against Drunk Driving	Keith Suitt – Austin Police Department
Lynn Haas – Bike Texas	Tim Thompson – Texas Department of Motor Vehicles
Larbi Hanni – Texas Department of Transportation	Kara Thorp – AAA
Ann Hatchitt – Texas Department of Transportation	Dalton Tingle – Operation Life Saver
Susan Herbel – SUB Consulting Services, LLC.	Heyden Walker – Walk Austin
Jim Hollis – Texas Department of Transportation	Bob Weest – Texas Transit Safety and Security Professionals Association
Nicole Holt – Texans Standing Tall	Robert Wunderlich – Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Introduction

Texas and virtually all other states experienced a significant reduction in fatalities and serious injuries during the Great Recession; however, the numbers are increasing at an alarming rate with the improving economy. This condition is considered quite normal as economic declines are always accompanied by motor vehicle related fatal and serious injury reductions. However, past increases did not return to original levels but remain below the rates at the beginning of a recession. The current Texas numbers do not follow the norm. In fact, fatalities are in danger of surpassing the pre-recession levels. The situation constitutes a human and economic crisis. For example, in Texas motor vehicle incidents are the leading cause of death for children through fourteen years of age. In the US as a whole, it is the third leading cause of death. Through the Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan, State leaders and stakeholders will address this crisis and seek effective solutions to turn the numbers in the right direction.

The purpose of this meeting was to initiate a process for updating the Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The SHSP is a major component and requirement of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). SHSPs were first required under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which also established the HSIP as a core federal program. The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act continues the HSIP as a core Federal-aid program and includes the requirement for States to develop, implement, evaluate, and update an SHSP that identifies and analyzes highway safety challenges and opportunities on all public roads

Meeting Highlights

Michael Chacon, TxDOT, welcomed the attendees. The Stakeholder Group was asked to fulfill several tasks for preparing and implementing the SHSP, such as:

- Lead/Join one or more Emphasis Area Teams
- Review the data
- Suggest effective strategies
- Prepare action plans
- Keep leadership informed
- Conduct outreach
- Continue the journey

The SHSP management team explained the SHSP requirements and components legislated by Congress and assured the Stakeholders they would work closely with FHWA to meet and exceed the requirements.

The Stakeholder Group will be asked to convene a few times during SHSP development to track progress; provide advice and assistance to the management team and the Emphasis Area Team Leaders; help develop a vision, mission, brand for the document, as well as statewide safety performance goals; and review and provide feedback on the draft SHSP.

After reviewing a series of safety data analyses and discussing the issues, the Stakeholder Group suggested several Emphasis Areas to strategically focus resources and energies for consideration by the Executive Committee. The selected Emphasis Areas are as follows:

Distracted Driving

Distraction was listed in 14% of fatal crashes as a contributing factor. Distracted driving is difficult to detect; therefore, it is probably underreported, and effective countermeasures are not readily apparent. For example, since Austin instituted an ordinance banning the use of cell phones while driving, law enforcement reports seeing more rear-end crashes because young people are texting and talking with the phones in their laps to avoid detection.

Impaired Driving

Impairment is a contributing factor in 45 percent of the fatalities occurring on Texas roadways. This category includes impairment by alcohol, over-the-counter and illegal drugs, and other categories that render a person unfit to drive. It is a difficult and complex issue. Recognizing this, the Texas Impaired Driving Task has developed the Texas Impaired Driving Plan to address this issue. This plan will be beneficial in

developing strategies and actions to address impaired driving. The ultimate solutions may depend on technology, but in the interim, it is important to work toward solutions that change the culture with respect to motor vehicle use. Mobility implies the responsibility to protect one's own safety and the safety of other road users. Changing attitudes and behaviors to this way of thinking could increase the proportion of sober drivers, pedestrians, motorcyclists, and other road users.

Pedestrian Safety

Fourteen percent of fatal crashes in Texas involve a pedestrian and a motor vehicle. FHWA identified Texas as a "focus state" in pedestrian crashes, as well as roadway departure and intersection safety. This means additional resources may be available to assist in addressing these crash types.

Intersection Safety

About 23 percent of the State's fatal crashes occur in intersections. The majority of these are urban intersections but rural intersections also constitute a significant part of the issue.

Speeding

Speeding is cited as a contributing crash factor in 23-28 percent of fatal crashes, depending on the definitions used, but it may be a larger issue than the data shows because it is difficult to ascertain how fast a vehicle was traveling prior to the crash.

Roadway Departure (run-off-the-road and head-on collisions)

Crashes involving departures from either the roadway itself or the appropriate travel direction constitute 55 percent of fatal crashes in Texas.

Additional Notes

Due to a Federal requirement, older drivers will be added as an Emphasis Area. Age and gender factors will be examined in all Emphasis Areas to help identify targeted solutions.

Emphasis Area Teams

The next step in the journey is to identify leaders and form Emphasis Area Teams, which will meet over the next few months to identify effective strategies and develop action plans for each of the strategic areas. All leaders, stakeholders, advocates, and other interested citizens are encouraged to select at least one Emphasis Area and participate in the exercise. The SHSP will drive resources for the next several years, and the plan will become stronger as more and more Texans engage.

Join the Journey! Please send an email or call Darren McDaniel at (512) 416-3331 or darren.mcdaniel@txdot.gov to let the SHSP Management Team know of your interest. The present emphasis area team volunteers are shown below:

Present Emphasis Area Team Volunteers

Distracted Driving	Impaired Driving
David Palmer, Texas Department of Public Safety	Clay Abbott, Texas District and County Attorneys Association
Paul Causey, Associated General Contractors of Texas	Laura Weiser, Texas Center for the Judiciary
Patricia Gaffney, Texas Teen Safe Driving Coalition	Laura Dean Mooney, Texas Agriculture Extension Service
Lisa Robinson, Our Driving Concern	Jay Tedder, Texas Department of Public Safety
Kara Thorp, AAA	Hope Lockridge, Executive Director Texas Municipal Court Education Training Center
	Nicole Holt, Texans Standing Tall
	Robert Severance, City of Cleburne Police Department
Pedestrian Safety	Intersection Safety
Dan Dao, Department of State Health Services	Brian Moen, City of Frisco
Lillie Banda, City of San Antonio	Lillie Banda, City of San Antonio
Alex Carol, Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	James Hoskins, Capital Metro
Lynn Haas, Bike Texas	Rebecca Wells, TxDOT
Heyden Walker, Walk Austin	Dave Carter, City of Richardson
Kay Fitzpatrick, Texas A&M Transportation Institute	
Rebecca Pacini, San Antonio TCI	
Brian Shamburger, Kimley-Horn	
Speeding	Roadway and Lane Departures
Jay Crossley, Vision Zero ATX	Rebecca Wells, TxDOT
Rebecca Pacini, San Antonio TCI	Jeff Kaufman, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Francis Reilly, Austin Transportation Department -Vision Zero	Paul Causey, Associated General Contractors of Texas
Bill Stockton, Texas A&M Transportation Institute	
Brian Jahn, City of Fort Worth	
Older Users	
Susan Herbal, SUB Consulting	

A hearty thank you to those who have already stepped up. The SHSP Management Team needs your background, expertise, skills, and ideas to create a Plan that can be successfully implemented and produces the desired results.

Respectfully submitted by the SHSP Management Team.

Invitees not able to attend

Clay Abbott - District County Attorneys Association	Ashley Matthews - TxLTAP
Grace Barnett -Texans Standing Tall	Caitlin McNeely - Houston Tomorrow
Upal Barua - City of Austin	Nic Moe - Vision Zero ATX
Chris Beireis - Motorcycle Safety Task Force	David Morris - FHWA
Terry Bellamy - City of San Antonio	Chris Nordloh - DPS
Nathan Benditz - City of Irving	Anne O’Ryan - AAA
Natalie Bettger - North Central Texas Council of Governments	Lawrence Olsen - TX Good Roads Assoc.
Rachel Bettinger-Cooney - Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center	Kellie Pierce - TxDOT (TRF)
Bryant Celestine - Alabama-Coushatta Tribe	Michael Shannon - TACERA
Carolyn Cook - Federal Railroad Administration	Lance Shillingburg - TX Trucking Association
John Denholm - Lee Engineering	David Shilson - Frisco Police Department
David Dennis - Associated General Contractors of Texas	Samuel Sinclair - NHTSA
David Freidenfeld - Texas Department of Transportation	Ken Smith - TX Municipal Police Assoc.
Barney Fudge - TX Education Association	Patrick South - Austin Police Department
Lauren Garduño - Texas Department of Transportation	Don Spaulding - Kickapoo Traditional Tribe
Luis Gonzales - Texas Department of Public Safety	Robin Stallings - Bike Texas
Bill Hale - Texas Department of Transportation	Sally Tingle - Operation Life Saver
Russell Henk - Teens in the Driver Seat	Joe Trammel - Tarrant County
Kirk Houser - City of Dallas	Robert Travis - Texas Department of Transportation
Tim Huya - BNSF Railway Company	Omar Villarreal - Texas Department of Public Safety
Gregory Istre - The Injury Prevention Center of Greater Dallas	Linda von Quintus - AAA
Bryan Jones - City of Texline	Tom Wald - Walk Austin
Jeff Kaufman - Houston-Galveston Area Council	Troy Walden - Impaired Driving Task Force
Alex Kone - Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Cameron Walker - Permian Basin Metropolitan Planning Organization
Larry Krantz - Texas Department of Transportation	Rebecca Walker - NHTSA
Sonya Landrum - North Central Texas Council of Governments	Michael Walton - University of Texas Center for Transportation Research
Gary Lindsey -Dallas County Sheriff’s Office	Jeffrey Weatherford - City of Houston



The Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Javier Loera - Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Karla Weaver - Texas Department of Transportation Bicycle Advisory Committee
Lisa Lucero - Texas Oil and Gas Association	Laura Weiser - TX Center for Judiciary
Mark Marek - Texas Department of Transportation	Rebecca Wells - Texas Department of Transportation (Atlanta District)
Cecilio Martinez - Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Dorothy White - Teens in the Driver Seat
Freddie Summer - Texas Department of Transportation	