

MEETING SUMMARY
REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, July 24, 2020

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams at 10 am on July 24, 2020.

Members in Attendance

Alonzo Liñán, Chair, City of Keller; Asma Tuly, Co-Chair, City of Allen; Joe Acosta, Trinity Metro; Joe Atwood, Hood County; George Barnes, Dallas area Rapid Transit; Ed Burgos-Gomez (For Amelia Hayes), FHWA; Rick Cortez, City of Mesquite; Jacqueline Culton, City of Duncanville; Caryl deVries, City of Grand Prairie; Rama Dhanikonda (For Daniel Herrig), City of Richardson; John Denholm, Lee Engineering; Buz Elsom, Rockwall County; Matt Hotelling, Town of Flower Mound; Brian Jahn, City of Denton; Gus Khankarli, City of Dallas; Rich Larkins, City of Grapevine; Minh Le, Texas Transportation Institute; Jim Lockart, City of Waxahachie; Brian Moen, City of Frisco; Yang Ouyang, North Texas Tollway Authority; Cody Owen, City of Irving; Mohammed Quadeer, TxDOT Fort Worth District; John Romberger, City of Carrollton; Gregory Royster, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport; Kevin St. Jacques, Hunt County; Jerod Stanley, TxDOT Dallas District; Stephanie Taylor (For Robert Cohen) City of Southlake; Matthew Tilke, City of Plano.

Guests in Attendance

Christopher Blain, TxDOT Dallas District; James Gaertner, City of Waxahachie; Kirk Houser, Alliance Transportation Group, Inc.; Dhruva Lahon, Kimley-Horn Assoc. Inc.; Elizabeth Reynolds, City of Grapevine; Jessica Scott, City of Dallas; Jason Wu, Texas Transportation Institute.

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger, Matt Fall, Camille Fountain, Clinton Hail, Kevin Kokes, Kevin Kroll, Sonya Landrum, Michael Misantonis, Ricardo Serrano, Barbara Walsh

Meeting Summary Outline

1. RSAC Online Roll Call
2. Approval of April 24, 2020 Meeting Summary
3. 2020 TxDOT HSIP Call for Projects Overview
4. TxDOT Dallas Four-Year Safety Plan Overview
5. Roadway Safety Performance Final Analysis: 2018 Targets vs 2018 Performance
6. 2019 Annual Safety Performance Report
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 23, 2020, 10 am

1. Regional Safety Advisory Committee Online Roll Call – Alonzo Liñán, Chair, City of Keller

Chair Liñán called roll. Those who were not able to respond verbally were asked to enter a notation into the chat box that they were in attendance. This was repeated later in the meeting for any latecomers. The attendees were notified that the meeting was being recorded for summary purposes.

2. Approval of April 24, 2020 Meeting Summary – Alonzo Liñán, Chair, City of Keller

The April 24, 2020 meeting summary was accepted as written.

3. 2020 TxDOT HSIP Call for Projects Overview – Jerod Stanley, TxDOT Dallas District

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) provides an opportunity for all to work together to make the region's roads safer. Jerod Stanley provided the committee members with an update as the program had been recently revamped due to ambitious goals of cutting the number of fatalities to zero statewide. Based on the TxDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the HSIP requires a data-driven approach with the focus on results. Emphasis areas the HSIP is focused on are Intersection Safety, Older Road Users, Pedestrian Safety and Lane Departures. A new guidance document has been issued, along with new work codes. Jerod highlighted information on the Safety Improvement Index Score and Funding Coverage. Average bid prices should be based on the respective district rather than statewide.

TxDOT's HSIP Call for Projects is now open, with a submittal deadline of October 1, 2020. Approved projects will be confirmed by March 1, 2021. More information is available on the [TxDOT website](#). The presentation can be found on NCTCOG's [website](#).

4. TxDOT Dallas Four-Year Safety Plan Overview – Minh Le, Texas Transportation Institute

Minh Le presented on TTI's project assisting TxDOT Dallas to develop a four-year safety plan. Although the Dallas district typically has the lowest average fatal crash rate statewide it also has the high vehicle miles traveled which results in the lower crash rate. There were about 13,000 serious injury crashes with a five-year (2014-2018) average of 7.1 fatal or suspected serious injury (incapacitated) crashes per day. The District identified four emphasis areas modeled after the ones the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Two approaches were used to screen, identify, and develop safety countermeasures (i.e. projects) – reactive and proactive. Minh also explained the methodology used for each approach. Countermeasures specific to each emphasis area were selected and applied to both approaches. Based on the screening procedures, projects were developed with specific limits, scope, and preliminary cost estimates for on and off-system roadways. Two hundred fifty-one projects were developed totaling over \$1.3B. Projects were prioritized or 'programmed' using a combination of factors such as project readiness, on or off-system, and current programmed year according to TxDOTConnect. The presentation can be found on NCTCOG's [website](#).

5. Roadway Safety Performance Final Analysis: 2018 Targets vs. 2018 Performance – Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG

At the January RSAC meeting, Kevin Kroll presented on the preliminary roadway performance measures. Today, Kevin provided the final analysis of the measures and which ones met the 2018 targets originally set in December 2017. Kevin established the background and re-stated the five State performance targets NCTCOG adopted. A table listed State and NCTCOG targets established for 2018 through 2020. He reiterated we are looking for a two percent reduction in each of the five targets by 2022.

Performance measures were met for three of the five targets: Fatalities; Rate of Fatalities; and Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries. Significant progress was made in the remaining two: Serious Injuries and Rate of Serious Injuries, meaning the number was better than the established baseline, but not met.

Kevin detailed the safety projects and emphasis areas and provided safety-related programs and projects from all program areas in the Transportation Department. He noted he would be sending out an email to the committee in the next week or two asking members to provide NCTCOG with their respective agency's safety-related projects and programs. A comprehensive list will be provided at a future Regional Transportation Council meeting to demonstrate for its members all of the regional efforts being used in traffic safety projects and programs to help drive down the numbers of serious injuries and fatalities. The presentation can be found on NCTCOG's [website](#).

6. 2019 Annual Safety Performance Report – Camille Fountain, NCTCOG

Camille Fountain highlighted the 13 Safety Performance Measures in the 2019 report. These are also based on the five safety performance targets as listed in Kevin Kroll's presentation. Camille prepared a slide for each of the 13 measures. Of note, crash statistics experienced an increase of 4.67 percent in the 12-county MPA from 2018 to 2019 in reportable crashes, and a 2.78 percent increase in fatality statistics. While pedestrian crashes increased from 2018 to 2019, bicycle crashes decreased. Pedestrian fatalities dropped by more than 50 percent.

Over 3,200 first responders have attended the two-day traffic incident management training offered by NCTCOG and the Training and Development Institute. HazMat incidents dropped from 24 to 16 in the 16-county region. The roadside assistance program had a total combined number of assists at 152,751 for 2019. The full presentation can be found on NCTCOG's [website](#).

7. Update Items

a) Crash Summary Report – Michael Misantonis

Michael Misantonis presented a regional crash fact sheet for calendar year 2019. These are the same crash statistics TxDOT also chooses to report on, and included some statistics not provided in the Annual Safety Performance Report.

b) CVE Equipment and Training Program Update – Kevin Kroll

This program will provide portable weighing scales and training on their use for CVE agencies in the region, in an effort to reduce the number of crashes caused by overloaded and unsafe commercial motor vehicles on North Texas roadways. Intercomp Company was recommended to be awarded the contract and approved by NCTCOG's Executive Board. NCTCOG will take delivery of 25 sets of scales to be distributed equitably to CVE departments throughout the region.

c) TIM Call for Projects Update – Camille Fountain

The CFP opened December 18, 2019 and closed February 21, 2020. Projects recommended by NCTCOG staff were approved by the RTC on July 9, 2020 and got Executive Board approval on July 23, 2020 to enter into agreement with the 15 award recipients for a total amount not to exceed \$1, 242,942. NCTCOG is looking into the possibility of purchasing some of the items through a cooperative purchase program. For a complete listing of recipients and award amounts, the presentation can be found on the RTC website.

d) Incident Management Blocking Equipment Pilot Project – Camille Fountain

When the TIM CFP was released, NCTCOG announced that if it received blocking equipment requests, there would be an opportunity for a pilot project to purchase this type of equipment. Regional Toll Revenue funds in the amount of \$132,000 will be provided directly to three local government agencies to enter into direct agreements with TxDOT to access those funds.

e) Traffic Incident Management Training During COVID-19 – Camille Fountain

NCTCOG staff have been coordinating with the Training and Development Institute and TIM instructors to develop protocols and guidelines in order to continue to host in-person first responder classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Approval is being sought from NCTCOG's executive director to continue to hold in-person trainings for first responders.

f) COVID-19 Impacts: Traffic Crashes/Fatalities – Sonya Landrum

NCTCOG's Transportation Department has been bringing different statistics to committees on how COVID-19 has impacted the transportation system. A reduction in crashes has been seen due to the lessened traffic on the roadways. However, with the lessened traffic, drivers were traveling at a higher rate of speed. When a crash did occur, it oftentimes resulted in a fatality. This is a nationwide trend, unfortunately. Sonya noted that we received feedback from local police agencies that traffic enforcement activities had been significantly reduced in April and May due to COVID-19 concerns; however normal traffic enforcement activities were re-initiated in June. Based on the preliminary data pulled from the TxDOT Crash Records Information System (CRIS) dashboard, the increased traffic enforcement was having a positive impact because the fatality rate showed a reduction for the month of June. Sonya asked committee members if there were any measures being taken at their respective agencies to help mitigate crashes. Yang Ouyang (NTTA) noted they have recently partnered with the Department of Public Safety to manage the speed on NTTA facilities.

g) Transportation-Related Conferences, Meetings, etc. – Kevin Kroll

An email will be sent out to the members asking for information on any transportation safety-related conferences, meetings, councils, committees they regularly attend, particularly the type that multiple agencies might attend at regional, state, or national level. Staff are compiling a comprehensive list which will be made available to the committee at a future RSAC.

8. Safety Related Reference Items, Topics or Training Courses

- a) [Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities \(1st Quarter 2020\)](#), NHTSA
- b) [Motorcycle Helmet Use in 2019 – Overall Results](#), NHTSA
- c) [Quadrant Roadway Intersection Informational Guide](#), FHWA
- d) [Seatbelt Use in 2019 – Use Rates](#), NHTSA

9. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements

- a) [Traffic Incident Management First Responder and Manager Course](#):
 - o August 6 – 7, 2020, Joshua Fire Department
 - o September 24 – 25, 2020, NCTCOG
 - o October 22 – 23, 2020, NCTCOG
- b) [2020 ATSIP Traffic Records Forum](#) – August 10-14, 2020, “Virtual” - FREE
- c) [Child Passenger Safety Week](#) – September 20-26, 2020
- d) [Third National Summit on Road Rural Road Safety](#) – September 29-October 1, 2020, “Virtual”

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Next Regional Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

The next RSAC is scheduled for October 23, 2020. That meeting will be held virtually.

Chair Liñán concluded the meeting.