

MEETING SUMMARY
REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, July 23, 2021

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams at 10 am on July 23, 2021.

Members in Attendance

Asma Tuly, Chair, City of Allen; Rama Dhanikonda, Vice-Chair, City of Richardson; Joe Atwood, Hood County; Rick Cortez, City of Mesquite; John Denholm, Lee Engineering; Caryl deVries, City of Grand Prairie; Marcos Fernandez, City of Carrollton; Amelia Hayes, FHWA; Matt Hotelling, Town of Flower Mound; Curtis Jarecki, City of Frisco; Gus Khankarli, City of Dallas; Alonzo Liñán, City of Keller; Jim Lockart, City of Waxahachie; Paula Meyer, TxDOT Fort Worth District; Yang Ouyang, North Texas Tollway Authority; Cody Owen, City of Irving; Akar Pokhrel, Tarrant County; Elizabeth Reynolds, City of Grapevine; Rob Severance, City of Cleburne; Kevin St. Jacques, Hunt County; Jason Wu, Texas Transportation Institute.

Guests in Attendance

Kirk Houser, City of Frisco; Dhruva Lahon, Kimley-Horn Assoc. Inc.; Rich Larkins, Bartlett & West; Minh Le, Texas Transportation Institute; Brian Moen, City of Frisco; Kathryn Rush, City of Dallas; Jessica Scott, City of Dallas; John Stevenson, City of Grand Prairie Fire Dept.; Paul-Matthew Zamsky, Waycare

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Tom Bamonte, Natalie Bettger, Matt Fall, Camille Fountain, Clint Hail, Kevin Kokes, Kevin Kroll, Sonya Landrum, Michael Misantonis, Barbara Walsh, Kate Zielke

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Approval of April 23, 2021, Meeting Summary
2. RSAC Member Introductions
3. City of Grand Prairie Crash Attenuator Project
4. A Case Study of WayCare's AI-based Traffic Management Operations in NV & TX
5. Regional Ecosystem Framework Survey
6. Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Update
7. City of Dallas Vision zero Crash Data Analysis
8. NCTCOG Regional Roadway Safety Plan Development
9. 2021 Blocking Equipment Call for Projects
10. Update Items
11. Safety-Related Reference Items, Topics or Training Courses
12. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements
13. Other Business
14. Next RSAC Meeting: October 22, 2021, 10 am

1. Approval of April 23, 2021, Meeting Summary – Asma Tuly, Chair, City of Allen

The April 23, 2021, meeting summary was accepted as written.

2. RSAC Member Introductions – All Members

All members were introduced, and new members welcomed.

3. City of Grand Prairie Crash Attenuator Project (2020 CFP) – Captain John Stevenson, City of Grand Prairie Fire Dept.

Captain Stevenson presented on the truck-mounted attenuator (TMA) blocking equipment the City of Grand Prairie’s Fire Department was able to purchase through the 2020 Call for Projects. Reserve apparatus are brought back into service and fitted with attenuators to be used as blocking equipment. The blocking equipment provides a protective barrier for emergency responders during highway response operations; and provides a protective barrier which reduces the risk of injury and death to motorists on public roadways.

Captain Stevenson stated this is a project that fire departments across the metroplex are excited about, that there is a true need for, and benefits fire departments and the public as well. He thanked NCTCOG staff for making this project possible.

The presentation can be found on the RSAC web page.

4. A Case Study of Waycare’s AI-based Traffic Management Operations in NV and TX – Paul-Matthew Zamsky, Waycare

Waycare is a cloud-based platform that provides AI solutions for proactive management. They have developed technology to help reduce traffic fatalities and crashes on the road. Waycare ingests data from a vast number of sources – both the existing infrastructure, and connected vehicles, external data sets (weather, construction information) – and derives insights that can be used for traffic operations and preventive work. Using connected vehicles data to detect incidents automatically; crash forecasting; and collaboration tools for faster response are just a few of the features to the system. Sources of the data include vehicle sensors; dashboard cameras; and infotainment systems, to name a few. In-vehicle data provide powerful traffic safety insights.

Paul-Matthew discussed case studies that used AI traffic management in Nevada and Texas. Starting as a pilot program in 2017, they have grown to eight different agencies within the region and are deployed throughout two regional districts in Nevada. The goal of the program was to take proactive measures to reduce traffic incidents across key corridors in Southern Nevada. An 18 percent reduction in crashes was realized; and a 43 percent decrease in the percentage of speeding drivers.

The presentation can be found on the [RSAC web page](#).

5. Regional Ecosystem Framework Survey – Kate Zielke, NCTCOG

Kate Zielke informed the members about an online screening tool the Transportation Department and the Environment and Development Department are hosting, called the Regional Ecosystem Framework. The tool can be used early in infrastructure planning.

Staff is seeking input via a survey for members to access and identify need so staff can update the screening tool.

The presentation can be found on the [RSAC web page](#).

6. Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Update – Matt Fall, NCTCOG

Matt Fall presented the recently completed Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, endorsed by the Regional Transportation Council on June 10, 2021. The Plan was developed because of the steady upswing in pedestrian fatalities nationwide. The FHWA designated Texas as a Pedestrian Safety Focus State, and the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth as Pedestrian Safety Focus Cities. Local partners can use NCTCOG's Plan as a guide or template to develop local plans.

Public outreach was a key element throughout the development of the Plan. TxDOT's MetroQuest online tool was used to gather input from residents in the region. TxDOT's Research and Technology Implementation Division's coordination was beneficial to NCTCOG during development of the methodology to identify safety corridors in the region.

Matt listed the five goals of the Plan, which support the regional safety performance measures established at NCTCOG, the plan's policies, and action items.

The presentation can be found on the [RSAC web page](#).

7. City of Dallas Vision Zero Crash Data Analysis – Kathryn Rush, City of Dallas

This presentation was postponed to the October RSAC meeting.

8. NCTCOG Regional Roadway Safety Plan Development – Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG

Kevin provided an overview of NCTCOG is currently doing, and what next steps are as the Regional Roadway Safety Plan is being developed.

Federal safety performance measures established in 2016 were designed to ensure that State DOTs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations choose the most efficient investments for federal transportation funds. The RTC provided funding for the development of a Roadway Safety Plan and future safety projects.

Development of the plan was broken down to four steps; Conceptualization; Development; Implementation; and Review. NCTCOG is currently on the Development step, developing crash mitigation strategies and countermeasures, analyzing crash data, and getting stakeholder input. NCTCOG will focus on a crash data summary template tool and a crash tree diagram tool. Next steps for staff are to continue to analyze crash data and identify opportunities to improve roadway safety; staff will bring the data to the October RSAC meeting and solicit stakeholder feedback from members.

The presentation can be found on the [RSAC web page](#).

9. 2021 Blocking Equipment Call for Projects – Camille Fountain, NCTCOG

Camille provided information on the upcoming 2021 incident management blocking equipment call for projects (CFP). A proposed \$1 million in funds will be available to eligible recipients in NCTCOG's 12-county MPA. Camille covered the scoring criteria and the schedule. This CFP will open on August 30, 2021, and close October 28, 2021. RTC action will be requested at the January 2022 committee meeting on the proposed selected projects.

Staff will recommend that the Incident Management blocking equipment call for projects to be funded using non-federal funding sources because of the FHWA Buy America iron and steel compliance requirements.

The presentation can be found on the [RSAC web page](#).

10. Update Items

- a) Predictive Crash Analysis Software RFP Update – Kevin Kröll
At the end of June 2021, NCTCOG published a Request for Proposals to purchase a predictive crash analysis tool. The tool would be used to inform project selection processes within NCTCOG. The RFP closes July 30, with an anticipated consultant approval date in November 2021.
- b) Traffic Incident Management Call for Projects Status Update – Camille Fountain, NCTCOG
Camille informed the members that NCTCOG is currently executing agreements with agencies awarded funds from the 2020 TIM CFP.

11. Safety Related Reference Items, Topics or Training Courses Website

12. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements

- a) 2021 Virtual ATSIP Traffic Records Forum
 - o August 16-20, 2021
- b) Traffic Incident Management First Responder and Manager Course:
 - o September 23-24, 2021, NCTCOG
 - o October 21-22, NCTCOG

13. Other Business

There was no other business brought up.

14. Next Regional Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

The next RSAC is scheduled for October 21, 2021, at 10 am.