

MEETING SUMMARY
REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, April 28, 2023
10:30 am – 12 pm

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met in person at the North Central Texas Council of Governments and virtually via Microsoft Teams at 10 am on April 28, 2023.

Please see page 5 for Member and NCTCOG staff attendance.

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Approval of October 28, 2022, Meeting Summary
2. NTTA Commitment to Safety
3. Statewide Safety Task Force and Friends of the Committee
4. County-level Crash Data Analysis
5. Sustainable Development School Program Announcements
6. Update Items
7. Safety-Related Reference Items, Topics or Training Courses
8. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements
9. Other Business
10. Next RSAC Meeting: July 28, 2023 – Format to be determined

1. Approval of October 28, 2022, Meeting Summary – Rob Severance, Chair, City of Cleburne

The October 28, 2022, meeting summary was accepted as written.

2. Commitment to Safety – Eric Hemphill, NTTA

Eric Hemphill is the director of Traffic and Incident Management (TIM) for the North Texas Tollway Authority and covered a portion of NTTA's commitment to safety. NTTA's TIM department is responsible for safety on NTTA roads. There are several divisions in the TIM department with the following responsibilities: roadside safety, traffic engineering, safety and emergency management and other divisions all working together to prevent incidences, respond promptly to incidences, or help clear obstructions on the roadways. Eric provided detailed descriptions of how cameras work, and how staff respond to what they are viewing, sending appropriate assistance. NTTA has incentive contracts with heavy duty wreckers and hazardous materials responders. Roadside safety services will coordinate with other agencies responding to an incident. NTTA provides 12 weeks of training for employees. Eric shared a demonstration of a truck with a lane blade, which can clear obstacles quickly. NTTA's future involves connected vehicles hardware and software to continue to improve safety.

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

3. Statewide Safety Task Force & Friends of the Committee & \$50M Safety Program – Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Natalie provided a brief update on the TxDOT and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Safety Task Force. Developed in 2022, it includes Texas Transportation Commissioners New and Ryan, TxDOT directors and districts, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The overall goal is to reduce fatalities on Texas Roadways in half by 2035, and to zero by 2050.

Each MPO is developing a safety action plan; TTI has been contracted by TxDOT to develop the action plan for each participating MPO. The plans should be finalized in the May-July 2023 timeframe. MPO staff will look at performance of safety on our system and put together action items to be accomplished over the following year. This is a high-level snapshot, about the implementation of different projects, tracking implementation and results of those initiatives. Natalie will bring a draft of the action items back to the committee.

The public sector entities began to bring in private sector entities or anyone interested in safety, and then the task force was opened up to Friends of Safety Committee. The meeting will be held quarterly. Natalie again invited members of RSAC to participate. Partners from across the state participate, including construction firms, work zone safety groups; there may be some interest from insurance companies.

Natalie provided a breakdown by category of the \$50 million in safety funds approved by STTC and RTC. These funds are for FY2024-2026. She asked the members for any ideas to help reduce fatalities under any of the six categories.

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

4. County-Level Crash Data Analysis – Michael Misantonis, NCTCOG

In January, stakeholders requested a breakdown of crash data in the regional roadway safety plan to a county-level analysis. Michael's information included the percentage of on- and off-system fatal and serious injury crashes of all 12 counties. He provided Dallas County as an example. On-system crashes generally occurred on larger roadways with higher-speeds. For Off-system crashes, the majority of the urban crashes occurred on larger roads, while the majority of rural crashes occurred on undivided roads. Michael shared fatal and serious injury crash rate by county, by population, and by time of day for Dallas County but noted the other county's numbers fell in line accordingly. Information was also broken down for the other 11 counties and available. Please contact Michael if you would like to receive the analyses.

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

5. Sustainable Development School Program Announcements – Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG

Shawn Conrad announced the 2023 Walk to School Day, which will be October 4 this year. This annual event involves schools and communities across the country and around the world participating on the same day. This event highlights the importance of pedestrian and bicycle safety and health benefits from biking and walking. One hundred four events were registered with the National Walk to School day in regional counties in 2022. NCTCOG provided giveaways to 20 regional schools celebrating Walk to School Day, and are hoping to expand that number this year. To be added to the mailing list for 2023, fill out the form at www.nctcog.org/walktoschool. Visit www.biketoschool.com for more information about the event.

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

6. Update Items – NCTCOG Staff

- a) July RSAC Meeting Preference – Camille Fountain
 - Camille asked the committee their preference of a hybrid or in-person meeting using an online polling system. She will follow up with the committee as to the poll results.
- b) Safe Streets and Roadways for All Grant Program – Kevin Kokes
 - Kevin highlighted the SS4A program. The notice of funding opportunity was released a few weeks prior. Deadline for submission is July 10. This is a discretionary grant program through the USDOT.
- c) Regional Roadway Safety Plan Updates – Kevin Kroll
 - RTC approved the Regional Roadway Safety Plan in March 2023. Staff now working on the implementation of the Plan.
- d) Check to Protect – Vehicle Recall Reminder – Kevin Kroll
 - The Takata airbag recall brought to this committee several years prior is still in effect. Honda has issued a “Do not drive” warning for early 2000s’ Honda Accords, Civics, CRVs, Odysseys, Pilots, and Acura TL models. The National Safety Council estimates that there are over 15 million vehicles on US roads with at least one active safety recall.
- e) 2023 TIM Instructor RFQ – Recruitment Process Update – Camille Fountain
 - There is a new process to recruit TIM instructors; can be done only with an RFQ recruitment effort. Camille will keep the committee informed when those opportunities

are open.

- f) 2023-2024 RSAC Term Designations – Camille Fountain
 - Camille reminded members that STTC would be receiving a letter requesting placement of an RSAC member for the 2023-2034 term year which begins with the July meeting.
- g) Drive Aware North Texas Outreach Item Availability – Camille Fountain
 - Camille informed members that NCTCOG has Drive Aware North Texas outreach items now available. If members would like to get some “swag” to be given away at events, they should let Camille know. A few weeks’ notice is optimal.
- h) Summer Safety Intern Position – Camille Fountain
 - Camille announced that NCTCOG was hiring summer interns; the Safety team was looking to hire a summer intern and members were encouraged to send any interested students to our website to apply.

7. [Safety-Related Reference Items, Topics or Training Courses Website](#)

- Safety related items are linked above.

8. **Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements**

- a) Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course
 - May 4, 2023, NCTCOG Offices
- b) Traffic Incident Management First Responder and Manager Course:
 - June 15-16, 2023, NCTCOG Offices
 - [August 3-4, 2023](#), NCTCOG Offices
 - [September 14 – 15, 2023](#), NCTCOG Offices
- c) ATSIP Traffic Records Forum
 - July 9-12, 2023 Nashville, TN

9. **Other Business**

10. The next RSAC is scheduled for July 28, at 10 am. Meeting format has yet to be determined.

Members in Attendance at the April 28, 2023, RSAC meeting

AGENCY	NAME
City of Allen	Asma Tuly
City of Carrollton	John Romberger
City of Cleburne	Robert Severance
City of Denton	Brett Bourgeois
City of Euless	Major L. Jones
City of Farmers Branch	Shane Davis
City of Fort Worth	Marisa Conlin (for Martin Phillips)
City of Frisco	Curtis Jarecki
City of Grand Prairie	Aaron Long (for Caryl deVries)
City of Grapevine	Elizabeth Reynolds
City of Irving	Cody Owen
City of Lewisville	Sirwan Shahooei
City of McKinney	Robyn Root (for Pamela)
City of Plano	Matthew Tilke
City of The Colony	Ron Hartline
City of Waxahachie	Jim Lockart
City of Wilmer	Lyneil Harris
Town of Flower Mound	Matthew Hotelling
Collin County	Bridell Miers
Dallas County	Anthony Smith
Hunt County	Chris Bosco
Wise County	Chad Davis
Lee Engineering	Curtis Hefner (For John Denholm)
NTTA	Yang Ouyang
Trinity Metro	Jessica Powers
TTI	Jason Wu
FHWA TX Division	Amelia Hayes

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the April 28, 2023, RSAC meeting:

Thomas Bamonte	Kevin Kokes
Natalie Bettger	Kevin Kroll
Camille Fountain	Michael Misantonis