

MEETING SUMMARY
REGIONAL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, March 25, 2022

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams at 10 am on March 25, 2022.

Please see Page 4 for Member and NCTCOG staff attendance.

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Approval of January 28, 2022, Meeting Summary
2. Did Higher Operating Speeds During COVID-19 Result in More Fatal and Injury Crashes on Urban Freeways?
3. Safe Routes to Schools Update
4. North Texas Regional Parking Database
5. Statewide Safety Task Force Update
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 22, 2022, 10 am

1. Approval of January 28, 2022, Meeting Summary – Asma Tuly, Chair, City of Allen

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

2. Did Higher Operating Speeds During COVID-19 Result in More Fatal and Injury Crashes on Urban Freeways? – Subasish Das, PhD, TTI

Subasish Das, an associate research scientist with Texas A&M Transportation Institute, presented the recently conducted study that TTI completed on impacts of COVID-19 on Dallas roadways. The study researched if operating speeds on freeways were higher from April to November 2020 when compared to previous years; were those higher operating speed measures associated with more KABC crashes during 2020 with consideration of other influential factors; and if 5-minute operational speed measures were more useful for assessing the speed-crash relationship when analyzed at a 24-hour interval rather than annually.

Subasish noted the several data sources used, and how the data was prepared. He shared numerous charts and graphs, detailing the data exploration and analysis; the mean operating speed, speed measures by year, crash frequencies by posted speed limit (PSL), and KABC crash predictions by PSL. Key findings were that the eight-month model showed that the higher operating speeds in 2020 were associated with more fatal and injury crashes; and daily-level models showed daily mean operating speed was associated with more daily fatal and injury crashes. Factors not considered in the analyses were traffic enforcement; risky behaviors/mental health; and weather.

The presentation can be found on the RSAC web page.

3. Safe Routes to School in North Texas – Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG

Shawn Conrad provided a presentation on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) in North Texas. There are 252 cities and 143 independent school districts in the region. Projected growth in the region assumes there will be 2.1 million 5- to 17-year-olds in 2045. The question is how will the increase in students be accommodated?

SRTS programs seek to create easier, safer routes for students to walk and bike to school; improve health from increased exercise; reduce school transportation costs, and to realize household cost savings from reduced gas and vehicle use. Shawn talked about previous sustainable development team safety school initiatives and where we are currently. The regional program kicked off in 2010; in 2013 the RTC adopted the school policy supporting Active Transportation, School Siting, Outreach & Engagement, and Air Quality. In 2014, NCTCOG was awarded a TIGER Grant; in 2017, a school siting report was completed; in 2019 State Farm funded SRTS plans for Arlington and Dallas schools; and in 2020 a school district-public transportation transit coordination report was published.

Funding for SRTS comes mainly from Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects (CFP). The next CFP is anticipated for summer 2022. Technical assistance can be requested for SRTS plan development, SRTS project implementation, school siting planning, and general information and educational presentations to boards and councils. Staff is also developing a SRTS regional action plan.

Workshops and webinars are scheduled for later in 2022. SRTS and safety materials are available on the NCTCOG website. SRTS plans can benefit private and charter schools, in addition to public schools.

The presentation can be found on the RSAC web page.

4. North Texas Regional Parking Database – Travis Liska, NCTCOG

Travis Liska presented on the North Texas Regional Parking Database current project and asked for committee members' help. The focus of the project is on the availability of parking in the region; do we have enough or too much parking? Travis listed the negative consequences of too much parking. As the region grows, it is necessary to become more efficient as more parking is built. Travis provided the challenges on decision making process guiding parking build. NCTCOG is proposing a regional parking database that will help inform the region's parking development going forward. This can be facilitated by completing parking counts and collecting counts from others willing to share. Travis listed the steps for the data collection process, the types of properties to be surveyed, and how the committee members could help. Once the data is collected, NCTCOG will analyze the data and have it available in 2023.

The presentation can be found on the RSAC web page.

5. Statewide Safety Task Force Update – Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Michael Morris updated the committee on the most current status of the Statewide Safety Task Force, which he brought to RSAC at the January meeting. He presented a draft of the statewide Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Safety Focus ideas he will be presenting to the other 23 MPO's in the state in the next few weeks, and the Texas Transportation Commission in April.

MPOs would be asked to reaffirm a current safety commitment, or make a safety commitment. Each MPO would receive \$50,000 a year for a three-year commitment to produce a safety action plan or comprehensive safety plan. Michael will propose that each MPO submit a report to NCTCOG yearly and NCTCOG staff will combine and submit an annual report by the end of the calendar year that documents what each MPO is doing. He outlined the proposed process for NCTCOG. He asked for RSAC members' ideas with regard to the implications for the North Central Texas region, and any comments on the presentation before he moves forward with it. The RSAC would be the agent for the region to help implement the region's responsibility.

Due to a previously scheduled workshop beginning at 11:30 am that many members were attending, the RSAC meeting was ended early and the remaining items were not presented.

The next RSAC is scheduled for July 22, 2022, at 10 am. Meeting format has yet to be determined.

Members in Attendance at the March 25, 2022, RSAC meeting:

Members	Agency
Asma Tuly, Chair	City of Allen
Rama Dhanikonda, Vice-Chair	City of Richardson
Pamela Alummoottil	City of McKinney
Joe Atwood	Hood County
Chad Davis	Wise County
John Denholm	Lee Engineering
Caryl DeVries	City of Grand Prairie
Eric Gallt	City of Mesquite
Matthew Hotelling	Town of Flower Mound
Kirk Houser	City of Frisco
Curtis Jarecki	City of Frisco
Minh Le	TTI
Alonzo Liñán	City of Keller
Jim Lockart	City of Waxahachie
Joseph Marchione	City of Dallas
Paula Meyer	TxDOT Fort Worth
Yang Ouyang	NTTA
Cody Owen	City of Irving
Akar Pokhrel	Tarrant County
Elizabeth Reynolds	City of Grapevine
John Romberger	City of Carrollton
Rob Severance	City of Cleburne
Anthony Smith	Dallas County
Kevin St. Jacques	Hunt County
Matt Tilke	City of Plano

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance at the March 25, 2022, RSAC meeting:

Natalie Bettger	NCTCOG
Camille Fountain	NCTCOG
Kevin Kroll	NCTCOG
Michael Misantonis	NCTCOG
Sonya Landrum	NCTCOG
Thomas Bamonte	NCTCOG
Shawn Conrad	NCTCOG
Erin Curry	NCTCOG
Clinton Hail	NCTCOG
Travis Liska	NCTCOG
Michael Morris	NCTCOG
Daniel Snyder	NCTCOG