

MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Safety Advisory Committee

Friday, January 27, 2017

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met at 10 am on January 27, 2017 at NCTCOG offices.

Members in Attendance

Nathan Benditz, Chair, City of Irving; Rich Larkins, Vice-Chair, City of Grapevine; George Barnes, Dallas Area Rapid Transit; Jim Cline, Denton County Transportation Authority; John Denholm, Lee Engineering; Chris Flanigan, City of Allen; Tamara Gart, TxDOT Dallas District; Mike Hasler, City of Duncanville; Matt Hotelling, Town of Flower Mound; Paul Iwuchukwu, City of Arlington; Yang Jin, City of Mesquite; Sholeh Karimi, City of Grand Prairie; Minh Le, Texas Transportation Institute; Brian McNulty (for RHartline), City of The Colony; Brian Moen, City of Frisco; Lloyd Neal, City of Plano; Yang Ouyang, North Texas Tollway Authority; Roy Parikh, BGE Inc.; Kiara Perez, City of Garland; Mohammed Quadeer, TxDOT Fort Worth District; Randy Skinner, Tarrant County; Anthony Smith, Dallas County; Mark Titus, City of Richardson

Non-Members/Guests in Attendance

Tom Bamonte, NCTCOG; Andy Oberlander, TxDOT Dallas District; Marian Thompson, NCTCOG

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Natalie Bettger, Camille Fountain, Sonya Jackson Landrum, Kevin Kroll, Barbara Walsh

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Approval of October 28, 2016 Meeting Summary
2. Airbag Recall North Texas Outreach Project
3. Regional 511 Program
4. Truck Lane Restriction After-Study Follow-up Review
5. Update Items
6. Safety-Related Reference Items, Topics or Training Courses
7. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements
8. Other Business

1. Approval of October 26, 2016 Meeting Summary – Nathan Benditz, Chair, City of Irving

The Summary of the October RSAC meeting was accepted as written. MHotelling, (M).

2. Airbag Recall North Texas Outreach Project – Ken Benson, North Texas Coalition

Ken Benson is a Public Affairs consultant to Airbag Recall North Texas Coalition. The Airbag Recall is an emerging public safety issue. A massive airbag recall is going on across the United States for automobiles of all makes and ages. Takata manufactures most of the airbags in cars today. Inflators used on airbags to release the gases that deploy the airbags deteriorate. Instead of the airbags protecting passengers from injury, they are causing injury and death.

More than 70 million airbags in the United States are currently under recall. The estimate is 500,000 or more airbags in North Texas that need replacing. The outreach project is to help determine if a vehicle has a defective airbag; and if so, call your dealer to get it replaced. If they don't have replacements in stock, get on a list to schedule when it is available.

NHTSA is coordinating the country-wide effort to spread the word. They are working closely with automobile manufacturers and dealerships to urge them to contact customers to replace defective airbags in affected cars. View Ken's presentation, previously given to the Dallas City Council, [here](#).

Ken provided a large packet of information. Committee members are in a position to help inform the public, and Ken asked if anyone was interested to fill out a form and send it in to him and update him with any public presentations so to track who is being informed.

3. 511DFW Traveler Information System – Marian Thompson, P.E., NCTCOG

Marian Thompson presented on the 511 Traveler Information System and 511DFW that has been deployed in the region. The 511 Traveler Information System has been deployed in over 40 states and regions since 2011. Federal Regulation requires real-time traveler information for interstates by 2014; and other significant roadways by 2016. Information available to travelers includes transit, traffic, weather, and parking information via a web site or My511, free mobile applications, Twitter, Facebook, and an Interactive Voice Response using voice or key entry.

Regional 511DFW system is multimodal. 511DFW covers open and congested freeways and transit in the 10-county non-attainment area of the DFW region. Data is provided by TxDOT, local agencies, transit agencies, private vendors and other sources. The current system is funded by various agencies through the end of April. At that time, NCTCOG will assume management and fund the next three years of operation geared to improve enhancements. An Independent Evaluation was performed on the system. Proposed enhancements include providing a Spanish Language version; making it more user-friendly; the ability to increase the ease of user input; and alerts. Challenges with the existing system, in place since 2013, included data reliability, system reliability, and awareness of the system itself.

Marian asked for workshop volunteers to participate in identifying and prioritizing some of the measures needed to help improve the existing 511 system. Workshop participants who may have experience of other, different 511 systems in other areas could share aspects that could be incorporated in 511DFW. View the presentation [here](#).

4. Truck Lane Restrictions After-Study Follow-up Review – Minh Le, Texas Transportation Institute

Minh Le provided a follow-up report on the safety impacts of truck lane restrictions (TLR) in DFW. TTI became interested in studying TLR further after viewing NCTCOG staff's pilot study findings at a previous RSAC meeting. NCTCOG's pilot study was limited to a before and after period of two months and one month respectively. TTI wanted to study further with longer duration time periods. Since the pilot, TxDOT has implemented truck lane restrictions in a number of corridors.

NCTCOG's region has the majority of the state's TLR-designated restrictions. Nineteen sections were evaluated, with an additional five control sections, for three months over summer 2016. About two-thirds of the sections were in the Dallas district; one-third in Fort Worth district.

TTI requested data from the State's CRIS and filtered it down for the studied sections. They used the Interchange Safety Analysis Tool-Enhanced (ISATe) to compare observed and predicted KAB crashes. Results were compared to the five control sections as needed. The results followed pretty well not only in each section but also in the total, with less than a two percent difference. The preferred Empirical Bayes (EB) Method was also used. The advantage of using EB, it correctly accounts for potential statistical biases in observed crash data – addressing the potential for "false positives" outcomes.

Using a sample set of 25,000 crashes, results of TTI's study of TLRs showed mixed results for KABC crashes. TLRs showed a positive safety reduction for KABC crashes involving large trucks. Based on the data, a small sample of crashes were Large Truck Involved – seven percent on 8-lane facilities; five percent on 6-lane facilities.

TTI would like to be involved in future studies using a bigger sample set and adjusting the TLR criteria. View the presentation [here](#).

5. Update Items

- a) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) Activities – Kevin Kröll:
 - i. DPS continues efforts to develop a data exchange system. The system will offer up-to-date driver history to CVE officers while they are on the road. The system is now in the testing phase.
 - ii. NCTCOG is developing a CVE equipment and training program similar to Photogrammetry training, where NCTCOG will provide portable scales and training to CVE officers at no charge. A survey was sent to regional DPS offices to gather more information on scales currently in use and preferences.

- b) Incident Management Call for Projects (CFP) – Camille Fountain
Another Incident Management CFP is upcoming. This is an update to the 2014 CFP. The new CFP will be released after final closeout of the last agencies submit invoices from Phase 2.

- c) 2016 Crash Data Request – Camille Fountain
NCTCOG will be requesting the annual CRIS data from TxDOT in the next week.
- d) Ideas for 2016 Annual Transportation Performance Measure (PM) Report – Camille Fountain
NCTCOG provides updates each year on transportation –related safety PMs. Camille asked for members to provide her with information they would like added to the PMs.
- e) State Farm Social Marketing/Driver Behavior Ideas Call for Information – Sonya Landrum
NCTCOG is looking for educational-type projects or outreach that agencies are promoting relating to driver safety. Members would receive an email requesting this information.
- f) Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Emphasis Area Invitation – Sonya Landrum
TxDOT is currently working on the update to the SHSP. They have an open invitation and opportunity for interested agencies to join groups on emphasis areas of interest. Emphasis areas are distracted and impaired driving, pedestrian and intersection safety, speeding, roadway and lane departures, and older users. Sonya will send the email and link from TxDOT.

6. Safety-Related Reference Items, Topics or Training Courses

- a) StreetLight Data Available
The USDOT formed a partnership with [StreetLight Data](#) to crowdsource research into reducing the high number of crashes occurring nationwide. Data is available to researchers and transportation professionals until the end of the year. NCTCOG has submitted an application to receive this data. Other interested agencies may apply.
- b) TxDOT recently released their CRIS query tool, a web service available to anyone without needing clearance. Identification information of those involved in the crash is not included.

7. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements

- a) Tom Bamonte announced that NCTCOG was co-sponsoring with the City of Arlington to demonstrate TESLA auto pilot and low-speed automated shuttles, which would be demonstrated at the Arlington Convention Center on February 2. The Center for Transportation Research was going to brief on more globally automation issues, such as adoption rates, the technology, and safety on February 13.
- b) [Complete Streets Bicycle/Pedestrian Design Workshop](#): February 7, 8, & 9, 2017
- c) [Automated Vehicles Workshop](#): February 13, 2017, NCTCOG, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
- d) [Spring 2017 Photogrammetry Training Workshop](#): NCTCOG, February 27-March 3, 2017 – Basic Training: and March 6-7, 2017 – Advanced Training:
- e) [Traffic Incident Management First Responder and Manager Course](#): February 1-2, 2017 and March 14-15, 2017, NCTCOG
- f) [Texas Safety Conference & Expo](#): Fort Worth, March 5-7, 2017

- g) [Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety](#): Charlotte, NC, March 26-28, 2017
- h) [Distracted Driving Awareness Month](#): April 2017
- i) [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#): April 3-7, 2017

8. Other Business (Old or New)

There was no other business announced.

- 9.** The next meeting of the RSAC is April 28, 2017.

Chair Benditz concluded the meeting.