

MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Safety Advisory Committee

Friday, July 28, 2017

The Regional Safety Advisory Committee met at 10 am on July 28, 2017 at NCTCOG offices.

Members in Attendance

Matt Hotelling, Vice-Chair, Town of Flower Mound; George Barnes, Dallas Area Rapid Transit; Jeff Bennet, Denton County Transportation Authority; Gary Brandenburg, Fort Worth Transportation Authority; Chad Davis, Wise County; Tamara Gart, TxDOT Dallas District; Curtis Hefner, Lee Engineering; Kirk Houser, City of Dallas; Paul Iwuchukwu, City of Arlington; Sholeh Karimi, City of Grand Prairie; Laura Melton, City of Burleson; Brian Moen, City of Frisco; Lloyd Neal, City of Plano; Yang Ouyang, North Texas Tollway Authority; Mohammed Quadeer, TxDOT Fort Worth District; Randy Skinner, Tarrant County; Anthony Smith, Dallas County.

Non-Members/Guests in Attendance

Jon Bunner, City of Duncanville; Andrew Oberlander, TxDOT Dallas District; Marissa Rodriguez, Injury Prevention Center; Kimberlin To, NCTCOG; Inmon Wiley, Fort Worth Transportation Authority.

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

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

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Introduction of 2017-2018 Committee Chair and Vice Chair
2. Approval of April 28, 2017 Meeting Summary
3. First Responder Alternative Fuel Vehicle Safety Training Update
4. 511DFW Enhancements and IEN Workshop Update
5. Dallas Area Pedestrian Safety Initiative
6. MPO Safety Performance Targets
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 27, 2017

1. Introduction of 2017-2018 Committee Chair and Vice Chair – Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Sonya introduced Matt Hotelling, newly seated Vice-Chair of RSAC for the 2017-2018 year. Chair Larkins was unable to attend today.

2. Approval of April 28, 2017 Meeting Summary – Matt Hotelling, Vice-Chair, Town of Flower Mound

The committee accepted the April meeting summary as written.

3. First Responder Alternative Fuel Vehicle Safety Training Update – Kimberlin To, NCTCOG

Kimberlin To informed the committee about upcoming safety training courses designed to educate firefighters, EMS, and law enforcement personnel on properties and procedures when dealing with alternative fuel vehicles. The training is funded as part of a grant from the Department of Energy. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities and the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium's host the trainings. The course instructs students how to react and respond to an accident involving an alternative fuel vehicle. Alternative fuels include CNG, liquefied natural gas, propane, electricity, bio-diesel. The next courses are scheduled for August 2 & 3 in Addison, TX.

4. 511DFW Enhancements and IEN Workshop Update – Marian Thompson, P.E., NCTCOG

Marian Thompson informed the committee about the now-active 511DFW traveler information system in the region. The system has been in place since 2014 but needed some enhancements, some being major improvements. Marian provided information on the survey available online and asked for input on the enhancements. Two workshops were scheduled at NCTCOG for August 1. The morning workshop would address public-facing (getting information from the system) web portions and interactive voice response. The afternoon workshop would address the information exchange network (IEN), to provide agencies an opportunity to learn about some of the enhancements to the input portal. An agency must sign up and create an account if they want to post notices about accidents, etc. on the system.

Marian also announced that there is additional funding coming available for the program to continue. Marian anticipated a Call for Projects would be announced in mid-September.

5. Dallas Area Pedestrian Safety Initiative – Marissa Rodriguez, Injury Prevention Center

Marissa Rodriguez announced that the Injury Prevention Center (IPC) at Parkland Hospital in Dallas has received funding from TxDOT for the FY2018 grant cycle to implement a pedestrian safety initiative. Working with several entities in the region for Year 1, the IPC plans to identify some hot spots in the Dallas area that have a high number of pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Several hot spots have already been identified. IPC's role will be to implement a messaging campaign in those hot spot areas to increase pedestrian safety. They hope to partner with Look Out Texans and other entities that already have a plan or infrastructure in place to address pedestrian safety. Another initiative is to work towards VisionZero.

The IPC will start with pedestrian safety observation to understand what pedestrian behaviors are at the hot spots and possibly interview at those locations. IPC is currently looking for a tool already being used to evaluate pedestrian observation. The tool is a variable for the observations. The plan is to identify where people are crossing and, through interviewing, collect qualitative data on some of the behaviors – why is the pedestrian crossing in a particular area, where are they going. The study will mirror one done at Johns Hopkins

University, identifying unsafe pedestrian behavior, and flagging or put something in place to notify the pedestrian of their unsafe behavior.

Part of the goal is to bring a large group of people together around the issue. There is some interest in getting a pedestrian safety plan in Dallas, and IPC hopes to be a part of the conversation to help achieve that goal. Having the right people at the table will help that conversation. Marissa asked that if anyone is interested in partnering with IPC on this project to let her know. The program does not start until October 1, but they would like to have some of the pieces, such as data and hot spots, identified before beginning.

Brian Moen mentioned that the State has released their draft pedestrian safety action plan. Sonya Landrum informed Ms. Rodriguez about a presentation given at the October 2015 RSAC. Dr. Stephen Mattingly with The University of Texas at Arlington presented "*Developing Public Health Performance Measures for Active Transportation Infrastructure – App-based Crowd Sourcing of Bicycle and Pedestrian Conflict Data*". Dr. Mattingly was working with others at UTA to develop an app related to pedestrians and crossings. This may be an existing tool that the IPC could look into. NCTCOG staff would send the information to Ms. Rodriguez.

6. Metropolitan Planning Organization Safety Performance Targets – Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Sonya Landrum reminded everyone that TxDOT is working to develop strategies and safety targets as part of the safety performance management mandates that came down from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As part of the performance management, TxDOT is required to develop their highway safety plan, the strategic highway safety plan, as well as their highway safety improvement program. The safety targets included in all three plans have to be identical.

TxDOT recently completed their 2018 draft targets and provided them to NCTCOG, which Sonya presented today. TxDOT is preparing to finalize the draft and submit it to FHWA. One of the goals of FHWA's safety performance measures is to establish a database of serious injuries, defined as incapacitating injuries only. Sonya explained the five performance measures and the purpose of each of the five targets in-depth. The targets are: 1) Decrease the Total number of Traffic Fatalities; 2) Decrease the Total number of incapacitating injuries; 3) Decrease the Deaths per 100 million VMT; 4) Decrease Serious injuries per 100 million VMT; and 5) Decrease the Total number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries, each target decreasing by 0.4% each year, for the next five years. Other requirements are that all performance targets have to be incorporated into the metropolitan long-range transportation plan, as well as the transportation improvement plan, and each target must be achievable.

MPOs are also required to either adopt, support, or create their own safety targets according to FHWA mandates. MPO targets are due by February 27, 2018. NCTCOG's plan is to take TxDOT's target percentages and apply them to regional data over the next few months. This is a discussion to be had with RSAC members. The full analysis will be brought back to RSAC at the October meeting. The presentation is available on the [RSAC website](#).

The question was asked if projected growth in the region was accounted for in the expected numbers. Sonya replied that it was a straight-line trend analysis and certain factors are taken into account. The growth rate throughout the state is different from place to place. Natalie Bettger added that some targets are based on VMT, which reflects projected growth in the

region's population, while some are based on straight numbers. The VMT-based targets should help balance out the growth element.

7. Update Items

- a) Takata Airbag Recall Expansion
 - i. Kevin Kroll had updates on the Takata Airbag Recall. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration expanded the recall to an additional 2.7 million vehicles, due to new testing on a different type of inflator previously believed to not have had issues. These deficient inflators are found in Ford, Mazda, and Nissan vehicles.
- b) Training Development Institute Website Changes
 - i. Camille Fountain informed RSAC members that NCTCOG's Regional Training Center recently transitioned to the Training and Development Institute. The website has been revamped and restructured. The new website address is www.northtexasTDI.org.
- c) Safety Project Idea Submittals
 - i. At the April RSAC meeting, members were asked to bring safety-related funding opportunities that could be applied over the region. There are several different categories under the Surface Transportation Block Grants, but the safety portion has not been presented yet. Since April Sonya had received two ideas from members – funds for flashing yellow arrow enhancements and lighting. NCTCOG's idea is to have funds set aside for systemic safety improvements. Sonya asked members to continue to send their ideas. A due date has not been set yet for safety item ideas.
- d) Future Training Interests
 - i. NCTCOG received a request from the North Texas Tollway Authority to gauge interest for training on the Highway Safety Manual (HSM). Texas Transportation Institute has in-house expertise willing to arrange training on the basic principles of the HSM and some special applications. Sonya asked for feedback from committee members. More information will be presented at the October meeting. Road Safety Audit training and a demonstration of the capabilities and micro-strategy of the CRIS were suggested as future training topics.

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

- a) [2016 NCTCOG Safety Performance Report](#)
- b) [Federal Safety Targets](#)
- c) [Solutions for Saving Lives on Texas Roads](#)

9. Upcoming Safety-Related Events and Training Announcements

- a) 511DFW Enhancements and IEN Workshops – August 1, 2017, NCTCOG
- b) First Responder Alternative Fuel Vehicle Safety Training – August 2-3, 2017, Addison Fire Dept. 4798 Airport Parkway, Addison 75001
- c) 2017 TIM Self-Assessment – August 2, 2017 NCTCOG
- d) Parking Symposium – August 2, 2017, Hilton Arlington, 2401 E. Lamar Blvd. Arlington 76006
- e) Traffic Incident Management First Responder and Manager Course –

- i. September 12-13, 2017
 - ii. October 11-12, 2017
- f) [LiveSavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities](#) – April 22-24, 2018, San Antonio, TX

10. Other Business (Old or New)

Brian Moen stated an announcement would be coming out soon for registration for the Tex-ITE meeting session scheduled for September 6-8, 2017 in San Marcos, TX. Some sessions address safety – State Highway Safety Plan, VisionZero, and more.

11. The next meeting of the RSAC is October 27, 2017.

Vice-Chair Hotelling concluded the meeting.